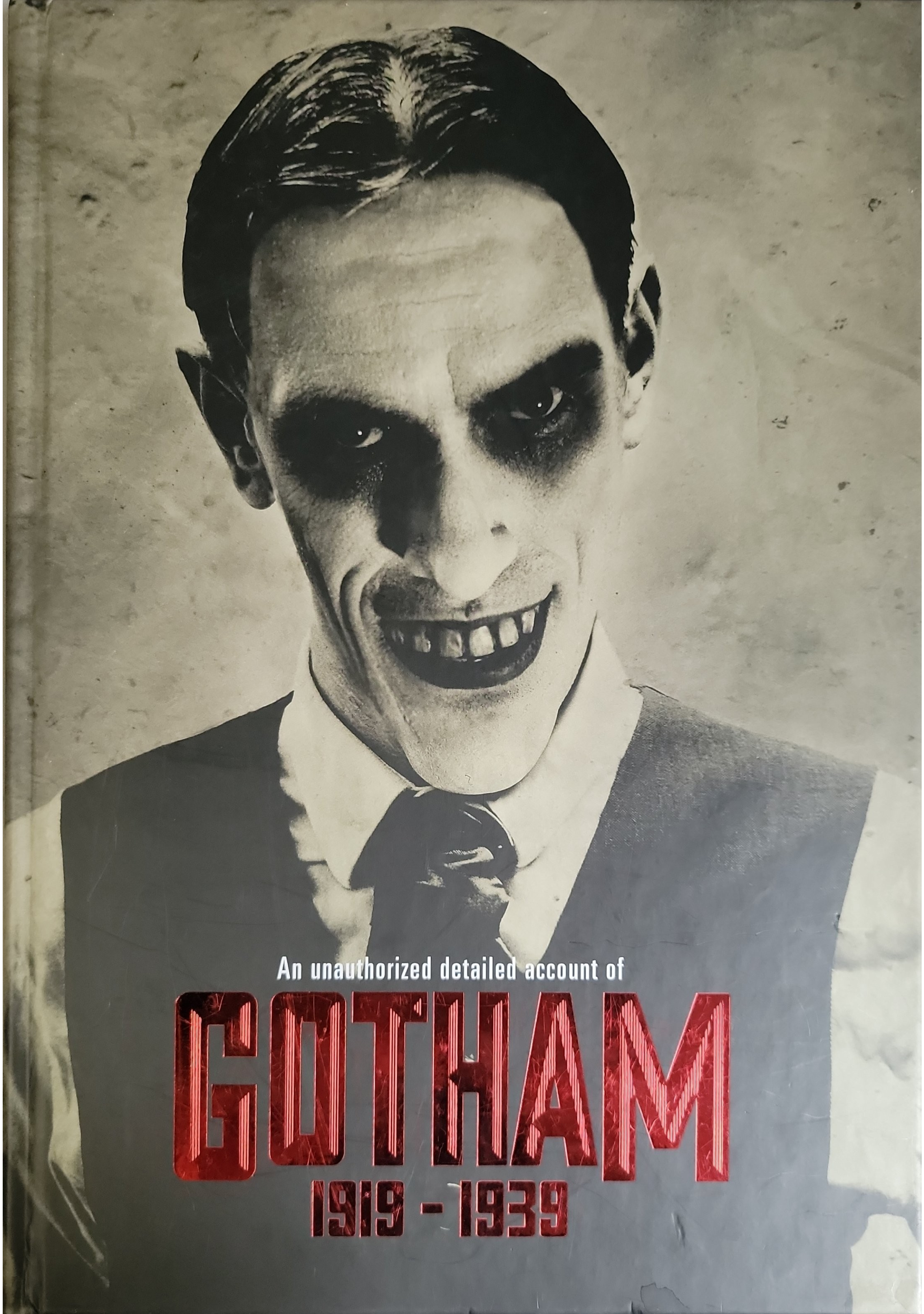

An unauthorized detailed account of

GOTHAM

1919 - 1939

HOTEL
MORRISON

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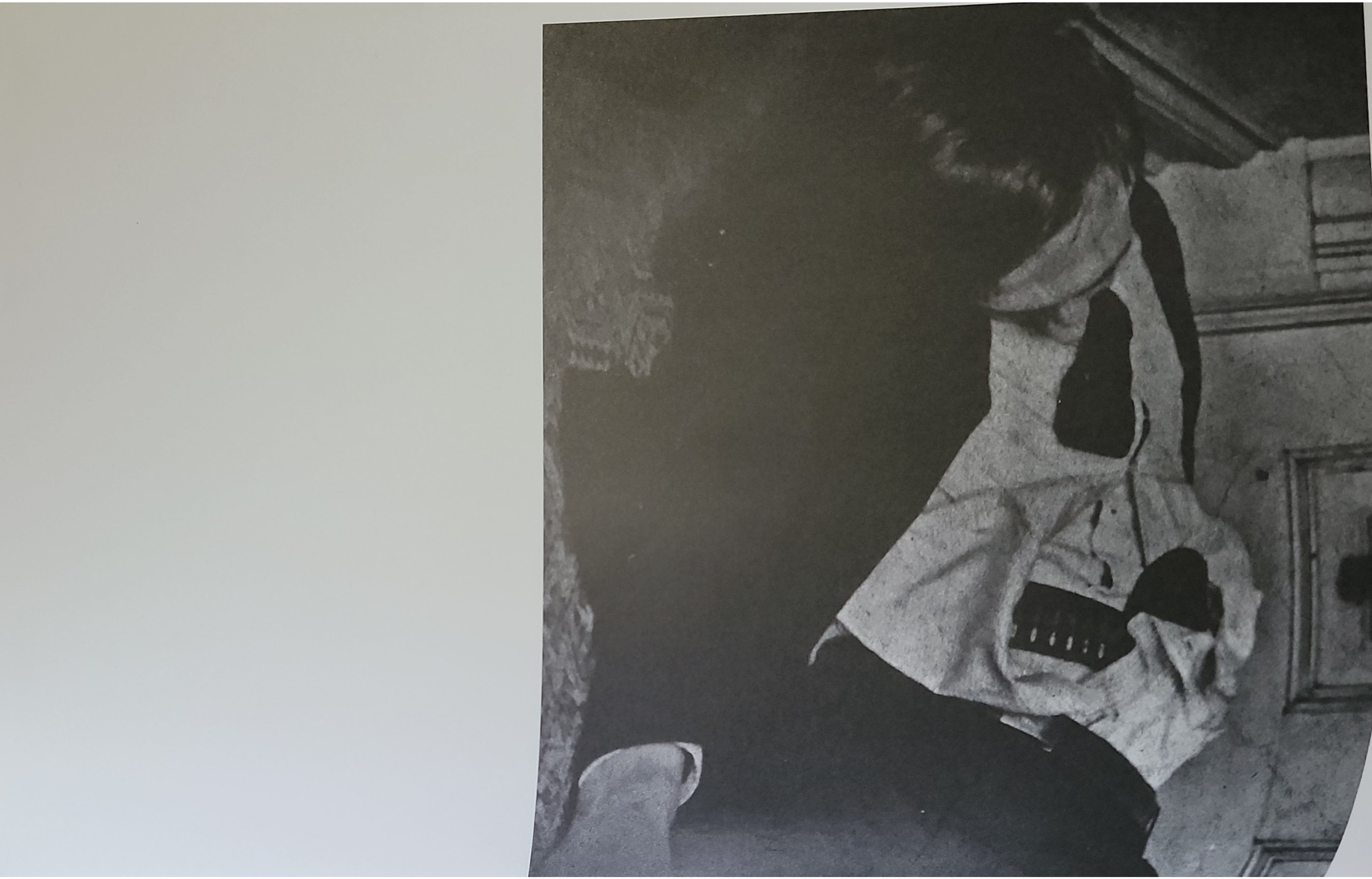

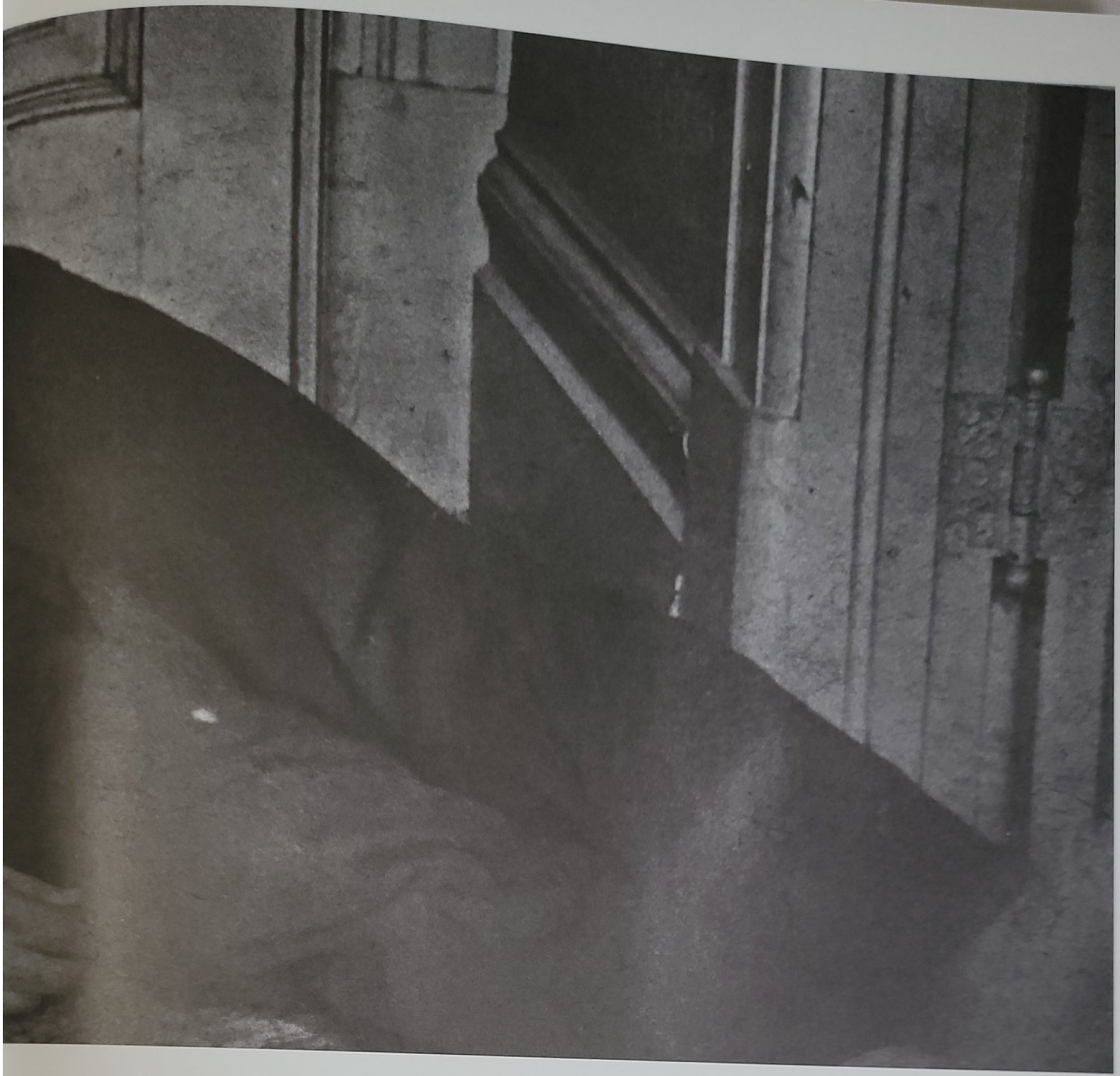

"What's important at this time is to re-clarify the difference between hero and villain"

- J. Edgar Hoover

Gotham: 1919 - 1939

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1919 - 1939

Gotham

Carefully curated from archives, artifacts and first-hand accounts, this book serves as a record for one of Gotham's most turbulent eras, 1919 to 1939. This was a time when the city was defined by the crime that plagued it, and by those who bravely chose to come to its defense.

To fully appreciate the following content, you must first delve back into the circumstances that fostered a world where men and women cloaked in fantastic uniforms would become locked in a vicious war on the streets, in one of the most modern American cities of the time.

Gotham City was founded in 1685 by a Norwegian mercenary by the name of Captain Jon Logerquist – only to be later taken over by the British in 1702, before serving as a battleground for one of the first major conflicts in the War of Independence in 1776.

Gotham was home to immigrants from Europe looking for a new life, as well as countless freed and escaped slaves in search of refuge in a more progressive northern city.

This rapid growth necessitated strong leadership for the city to keep pace with its population. Alan Wayne, Theodore Cobblepot and Edward Elliot are considered the founding fathers of Gotham. Together they built a viable infrastructure, created new employment opportunities, and maintained a stable leadership that would help Gotham to become one of the largest forward-thinking cities in the United States.

The Great War, which concluded in late 1918, was the first large-scale international conflict to be fought with modern weapons and military strategy. It saw young men from around the world travel to far away countries to fight and die. 16 million people perished during the Great War and those who returned home would be forever changed, mentally and physically.

Not long after the war, in recognition of their efforts to keep America running, women gained the right to vote. As a collective, women could upset elections, so it was in the politicians' best interests to appease them. What they wanted was for their sons and husbands to not fall slaves to the bottle. These women successfully, and controversially, campaigned for the Volstead Act to be passed, which prohibited the manufacturing, distribution and sale of alcohol in the United States. This was the first example of the power of the suffrage movement.

But the country was still thirsty, with many men wanting to numb the pain the Great War had left them with. Small bootlegging operations kicked into gear and street gangsters soon became some of the richest and most powerful people in America – supplying scotch, gin, and rum to meet demand. The illegal funds flowing into the criminal world made those at the top of the ladder almost untouchable. These master criminals could afford to hire an army of returned veterans and supply them with an arsenal of modern automatic weapons, turning the streets of most major U.S. cities into warzones.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was created in 1908 (formally known as the Bureau of Investigation and the Division of Investigation). Under the leadership of J. Edgar Hoover (FBI

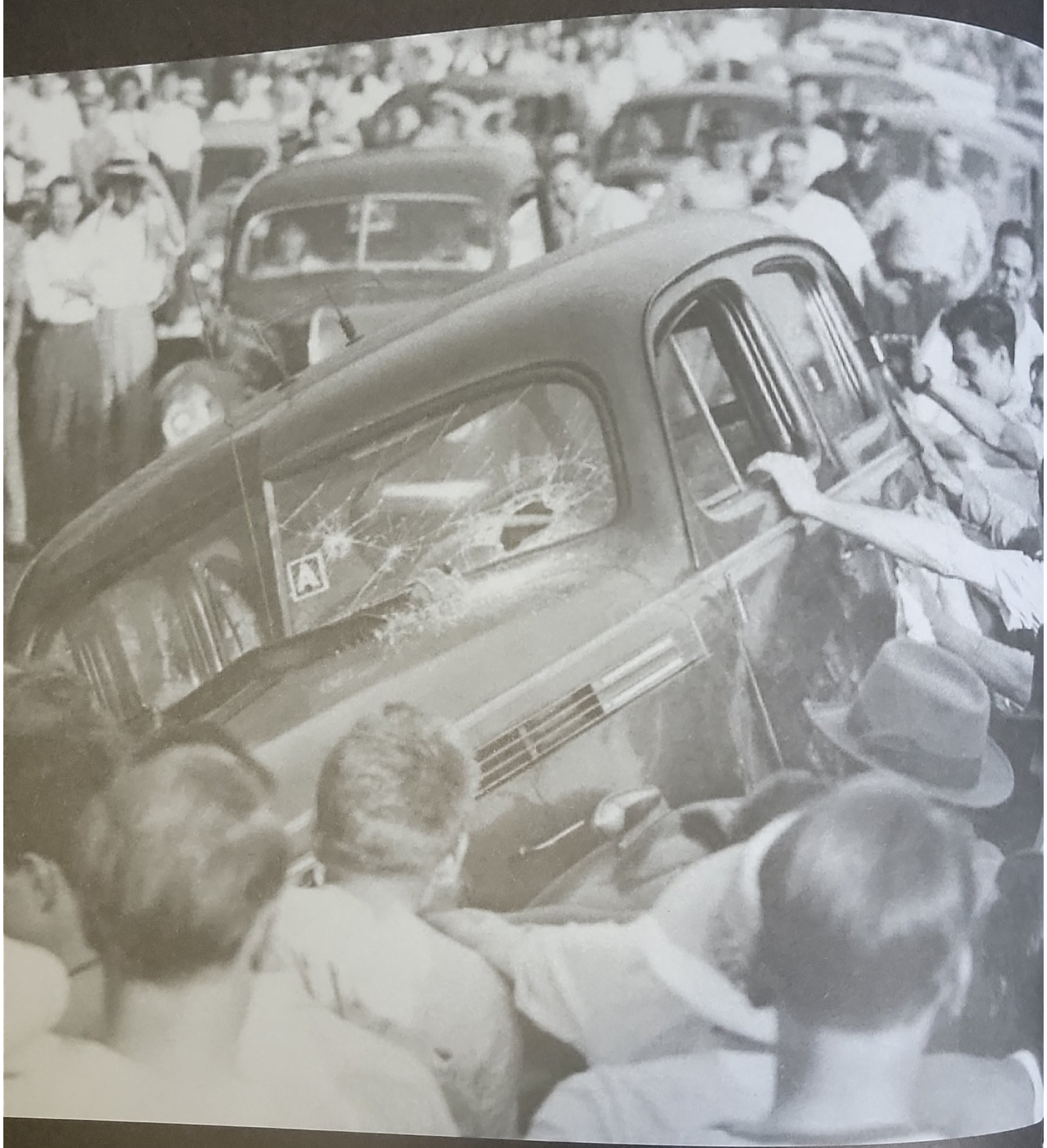
Director, 1924-1972), the FBI waged a national war on crime on a scale never seen before. Director Hoover brought an end to the careers and lives of numerous notorious criminals, who had carried out kidnappings, robberies and murders throughout the nation. Some of these included John Dillinger, "Baby Face" Nelson, Kate "Ma" Barker, Alvin "Creepy" Karpis, and George "Machine Gun" Kelly. However, the success they had collaring kingpins across the country didn't translate so easily to the Gotham underworld. Gotham City would become somewhat of an obsession for Director Hoover, who firmly believed that the vigilante that people called "Batman" was responsible for stimulating the insanity that went hand-in-hand with the criminal element. The FBI spent an enormous amount of money, manpower and resources trying to uncover the identity of this caped crusader. Many believed that someone within the government was protecting the Batman.

In 1929, the stock market crashed and would become a major contributing factor in creating the Great Depression. Citizens became unemployed and homeless overnight. Desperate times created desperate people. Honest men and women were pressured to break the law in order to keep their families fed, and Gotham City was no exception.

The perception of infamous criminals as celebrities was not unique or uncommon, but for the first time in American history, there was an ability to reach a national audience quickly using new communication technologies such as film and, most importantly, radio. Never before had common criminals become sensations overnight, with William Randolph Hearst's news empire running daily coverage about America's new violent times. The worst of Gotham's criminals became household names. The exploits of Batman and his "Rogues' Gallery" were broadcast on news bulletins constantly, making them seem more fantastic and exciting than any current action-hour radio play.

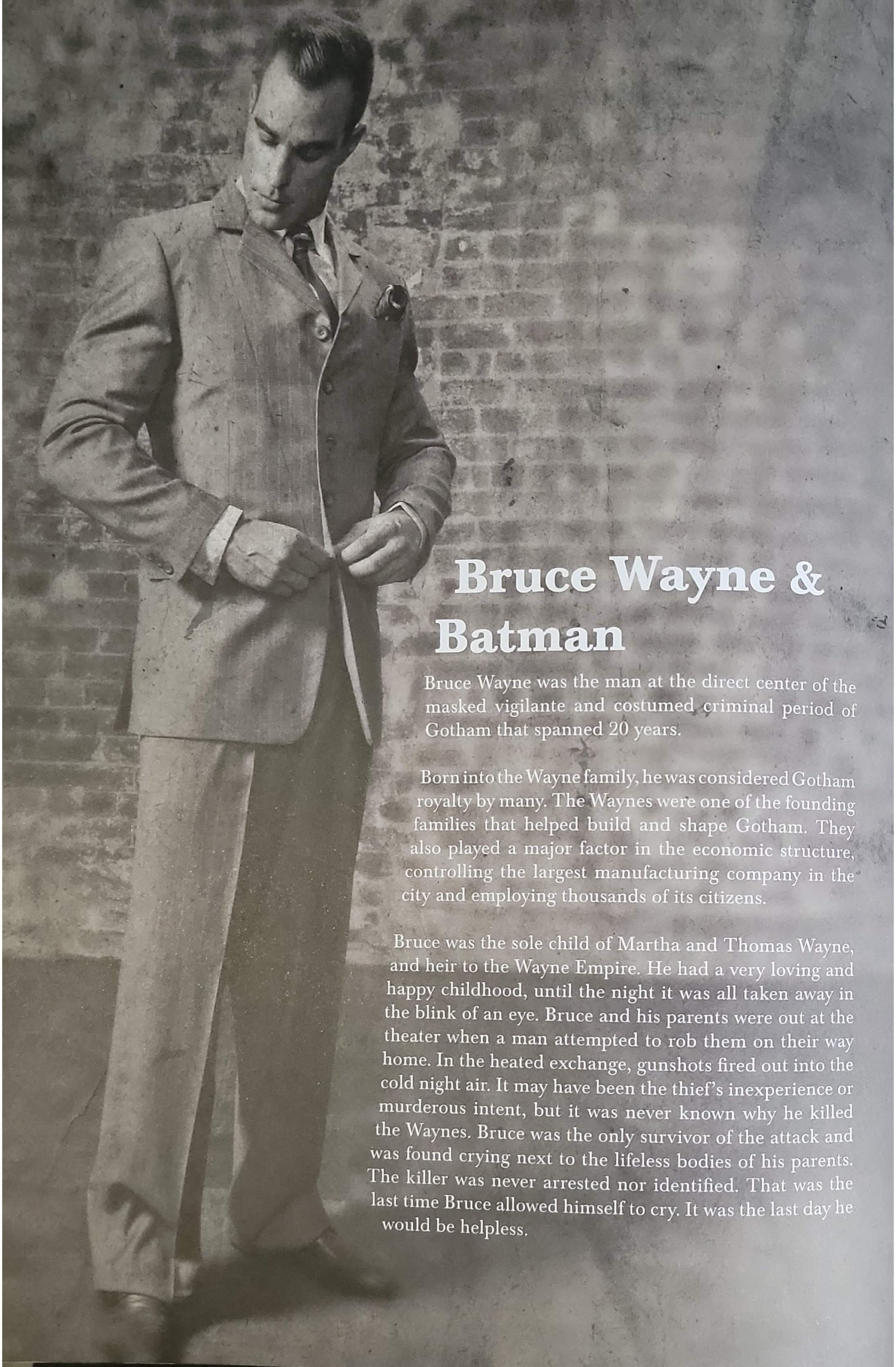
Leading up to and during the time period covered in this book, there was a surge of immigration into Gotham, as well as a great migration from the Southern states. All these people filtered through the city's ports and borders. What resulted was a melting pot of fashion, culture, art and language. This sudden change would fuel the rise of white nationalists and other secret societies amongst Gotham's elite.

And that is but a taste of what America was going through during this time period. Even though Gotham was not unique in creating its colorful protectors and monsters, it was, by far, the most prolific.



1919 - 1923

The Rise Of The Bat

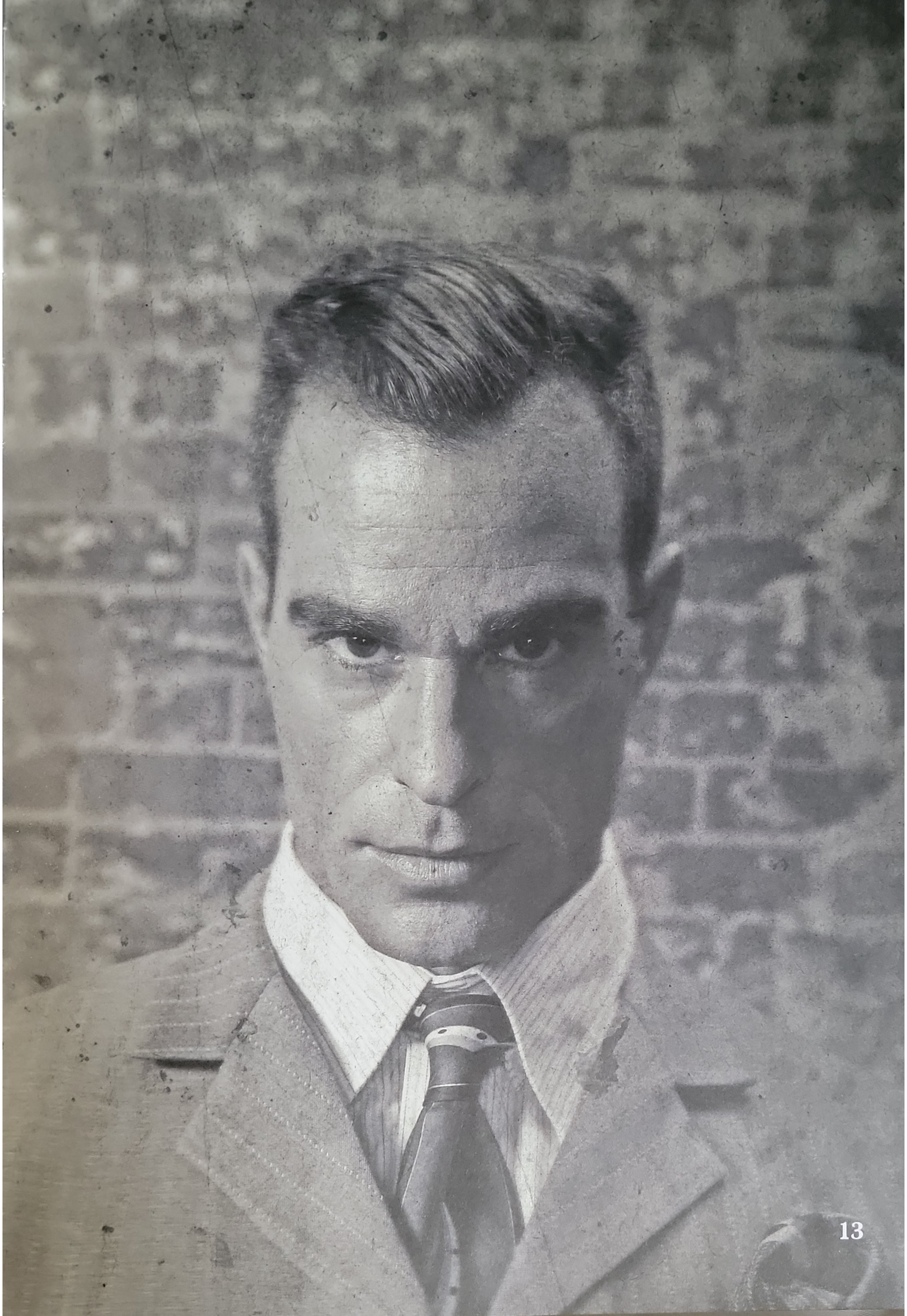


Bruce Wayne & Batman

Bruce Wayne was the man at the direct center of the masked vigilante and costumed criminal period of Gotham that spanned 20 years.

Born into the Wayne family, he was considered Gotham royalty by many. The Waynes were one of the founding families that helped build and shape Gotham. They also played a major factor in the economic structure, controlling the largest manufacturing company in the city and employing thousands of its citizens.

Bruce was the sole child of Martha and Thomas Wayne, and heir to the Wayne Empire. He had a very loving and happy childhood, until the night it was all taken away in the blink of an eye. Bruce and his parents were out at the theater when a man attempted to rob them on their way home. In the heated exchange, gunshots fired out into the cold night air. It may have been the thief's inexperience or murderous intent, but it was never known why he killed the Waynes. Bruce was the only survivor of the attack and was found crying next to the lifeless bodies of his parents. The killer was never arrested nor identified. That was the last time Bruce allowed himself to cry. It was the last day he would be helpless.



He was taken into the care of his family's loyal butler, Alfred Pennyworth, who would act as his legal guardian until he came of age. During this time, Bruce started to plan and train. He convinced Alfred that he needed this, that he needed to do something to deal with the loss. Alfred indulged Bruce, thinking the boy would eventually move on to other things. He was wrong.

Throughout his teenage years, Bruce would spend every moment training himself, both physically and mentally, calling on teachers from around the world to train him in a collection of different combat methods. Vacations were spent traveling to the far corners of the globe, studying the wealth of modern and ancient teachings that other cultures had to offer.

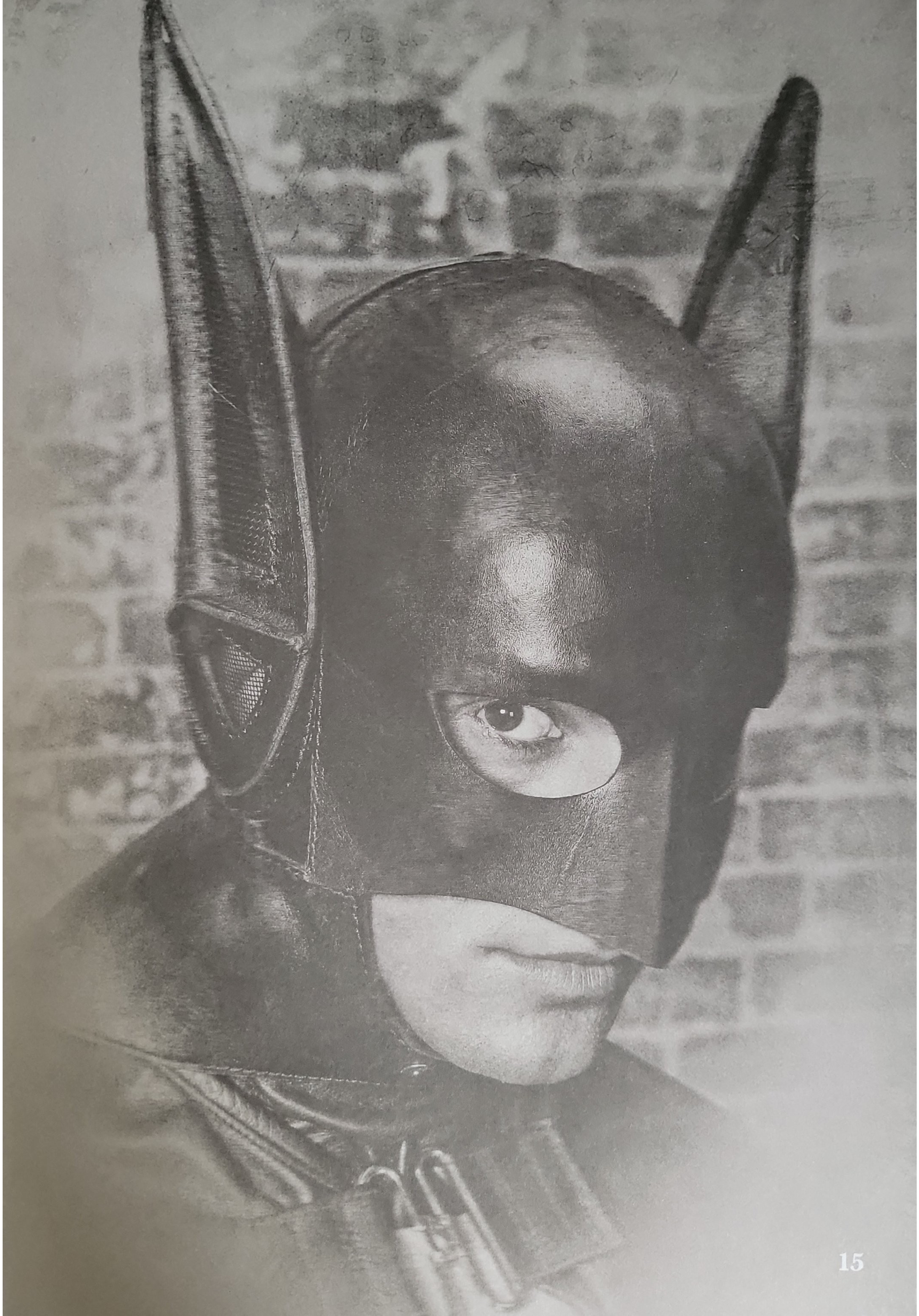
On Bruce's 18th birthday, he took control of his full inheritance. This included all the Wayne family holdings, the majority ownership of Wayne Enterprises Inc. Overnight he became one of the wealthiest and most powerful young men in the world. With the help of his father's most trusted allies, he began to expand and diversify Wayne Enterprise's interests into new and developing fields such as communications, media, sciences, and transportation.

Everyone thought he was just a foolish young boy who had ideas of grandeur, taking on more than he could handle, and that he would run the company into the ground. To his naysayer's dismay, these decisions made Wayne Enterprises one of the biggest and most diversified companies in the world. This bold new direction saved them when the stock market crashed years later. Financial gain was not the sole motive for these daring business decisions. Even at such a young age, Bruce was secretly building the infrastructure that he would need to support his plans to become Gotham's protector.

With so much power at such a young age, fame would come hand in hand. Bruce was frustrated by the limits his celebrity placed on his ability to expand his training in secret. That was until the Great War broke out. Bruce saw the conflict as an opportunity to disappear. Against everyone's wishes, he enlisted in the army. To the public, it was a rich young man following his childhood friend, Harvey Dent, into battle to play war hero – not an uncommon story for the times. Bruce ignored these insinuations and planned to seize the opportunity when it presented itself on the front line. After fighting in the battle of Cambrai, he vanished from the battlefield and was officially declared missing in action.

For the first time ever, Bruce was without his butler, without his money, without his name. He spent the next two years finishing his training in hiding. By this time he was highly educated and considered an expert in hand-to-hand combat, but what he really needed to round out his skills could only be taught in one place. His final journey took him to the mythical "League of Assassins" and their mysterious leader. Bruce's expert trainers had mentioned the League in the past, but only as a ghost story about a group of warriors that inspired a deep fear in those they would encounter. Bruce needed to learn how he could inspire this kind of fear in other people.

Late 1919 saw Bruce Wayne's return back to Gotham City, which was in much worse shape than when he had left. Politicians and law enforcement were rife with corruption, gangsters were in open warfare in the streets and the shattered men returning from the war were evolving into a new type of criminal the world had never seen. Bruce had come home just in time. After the fanfare of his return died down, he finally put into action what he had been planning for fifteen years. He finally gave Gotham City the Batman.



Thomas Wayne

Thomas Wayne, M.D. was Bruce's father. A gifted physician and one of Gotham's finest philanthropists, Thomas inherited the Wayne family fortune and holdings from his father, Patrick Wayne.

Unlike his father, he had no interest in the day-to-day operations of the Wayne enterprises, and instead left that to his most trusted advisors.

He was murdered in a robbery by an unknown assailant in front of his son.

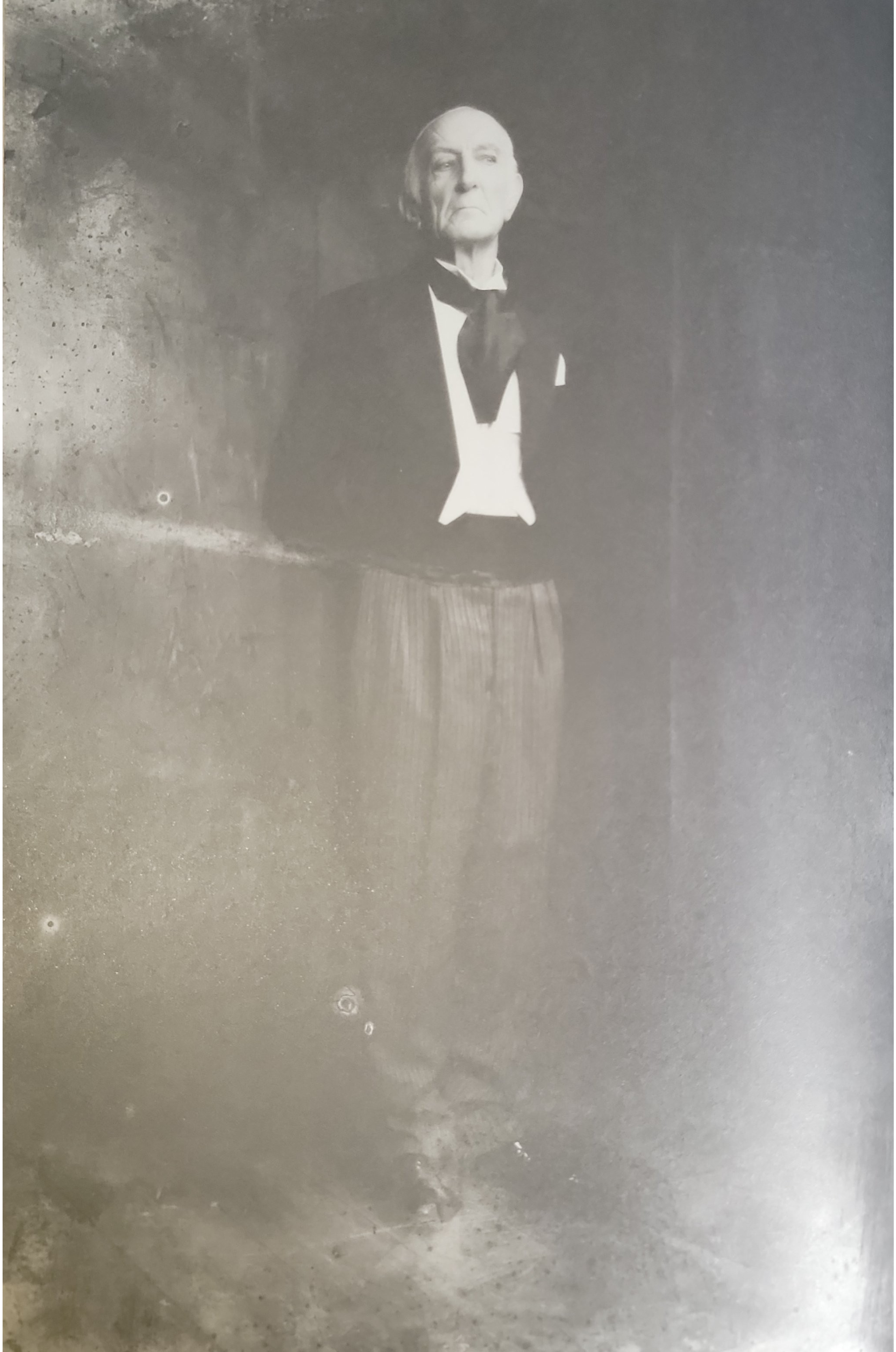
Martha Wayne

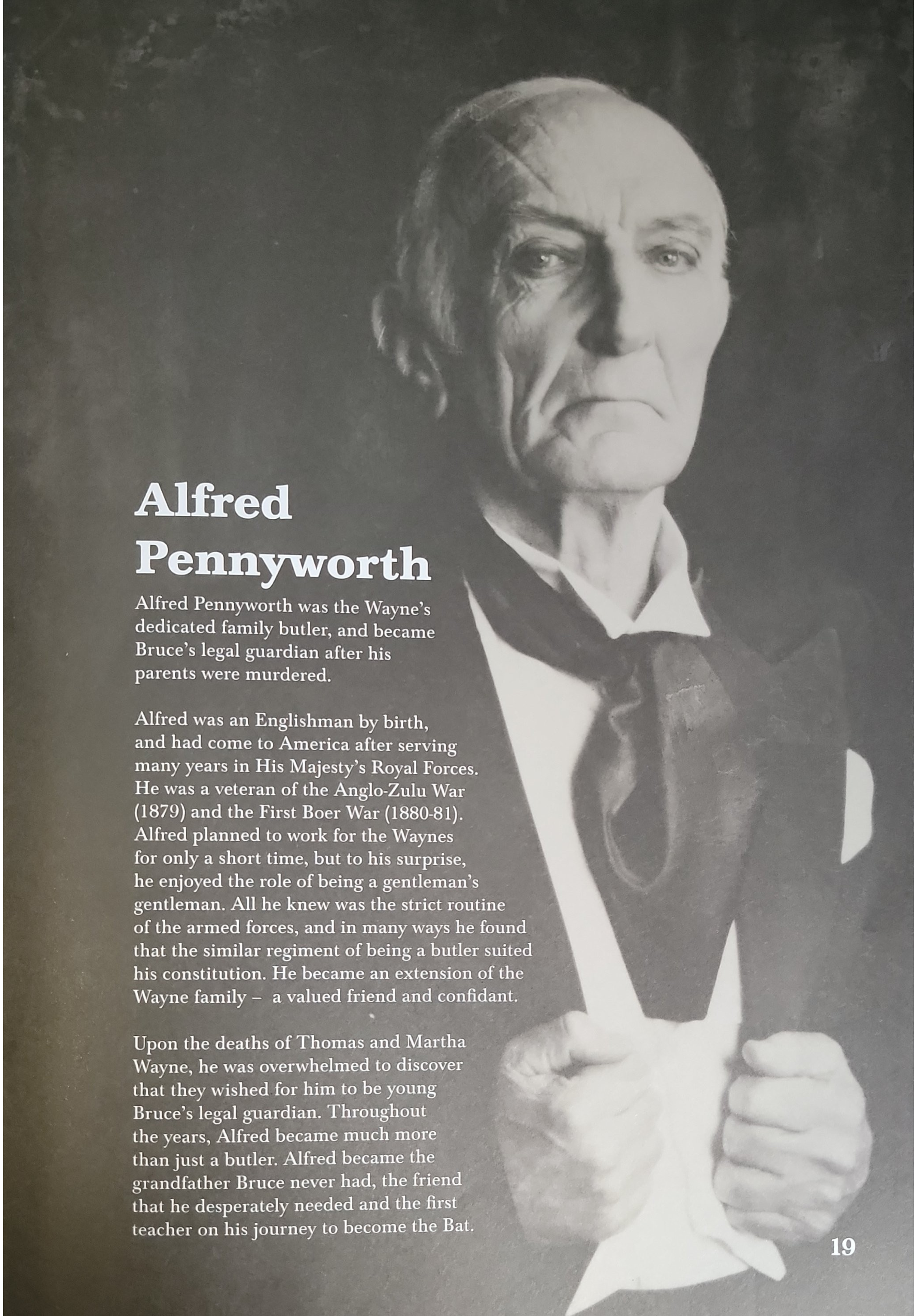
Martha Wayne (née Kane) was the wife of Thomas Wayne and mother to Bruce. She had also grown up in a wealthy family that was considered "new money" in Gotham's high society circles.

Young Martha was an adventurous spirit, traveling the world with no intentions of settling down, especially with an elite like Thomas. But upon meeting him, she realized there was more to this man than his reputation and wealth would let itself to believe.

They fell deeply in love with one another, and the years that followed with her new family were the happiest of her life. She died alongside her husband during a nighttime robbery – her son's tears were the last things she would see.

LEFT: Bruce was optimistic, and somewhat naive in the early years.



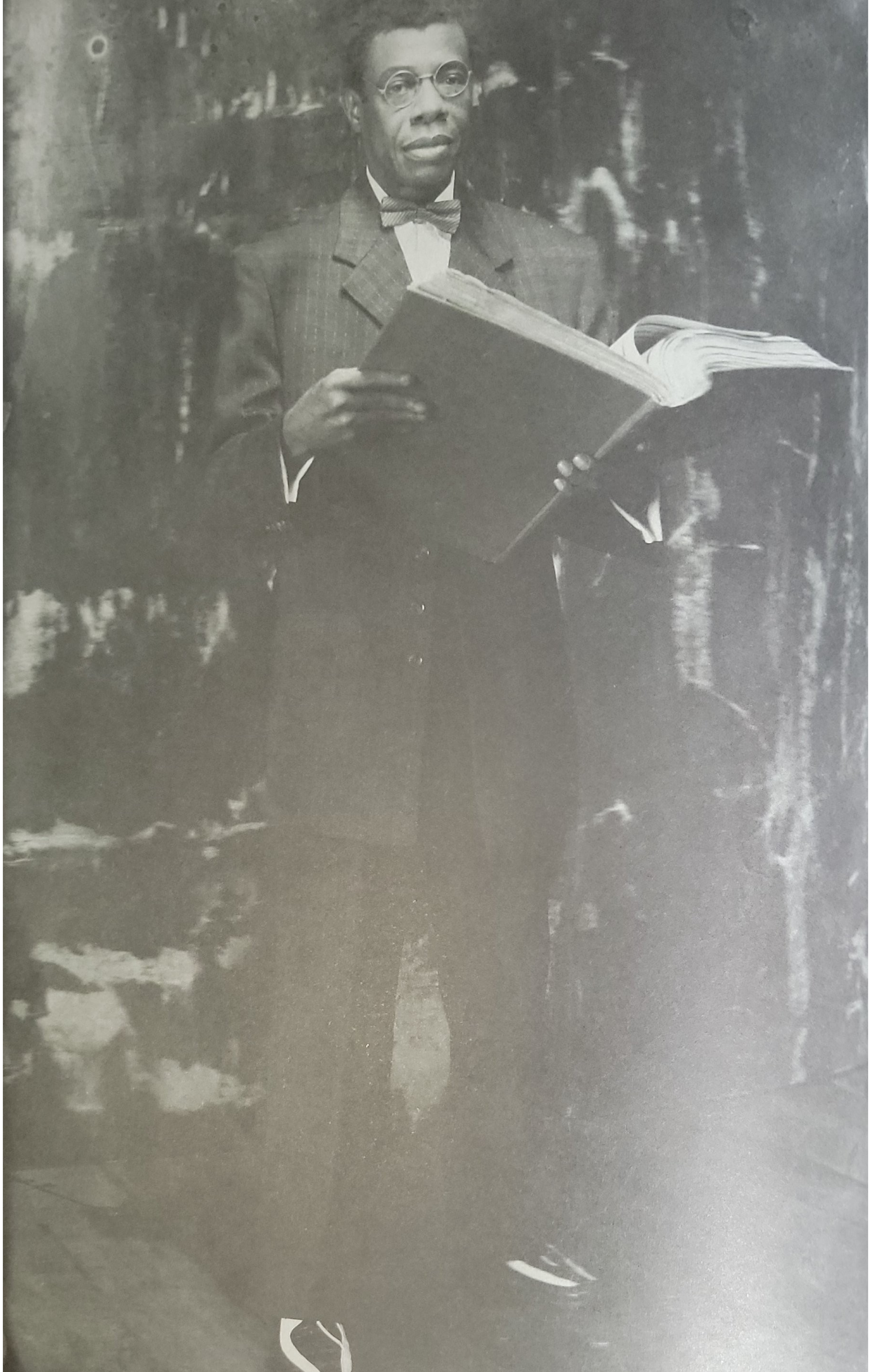


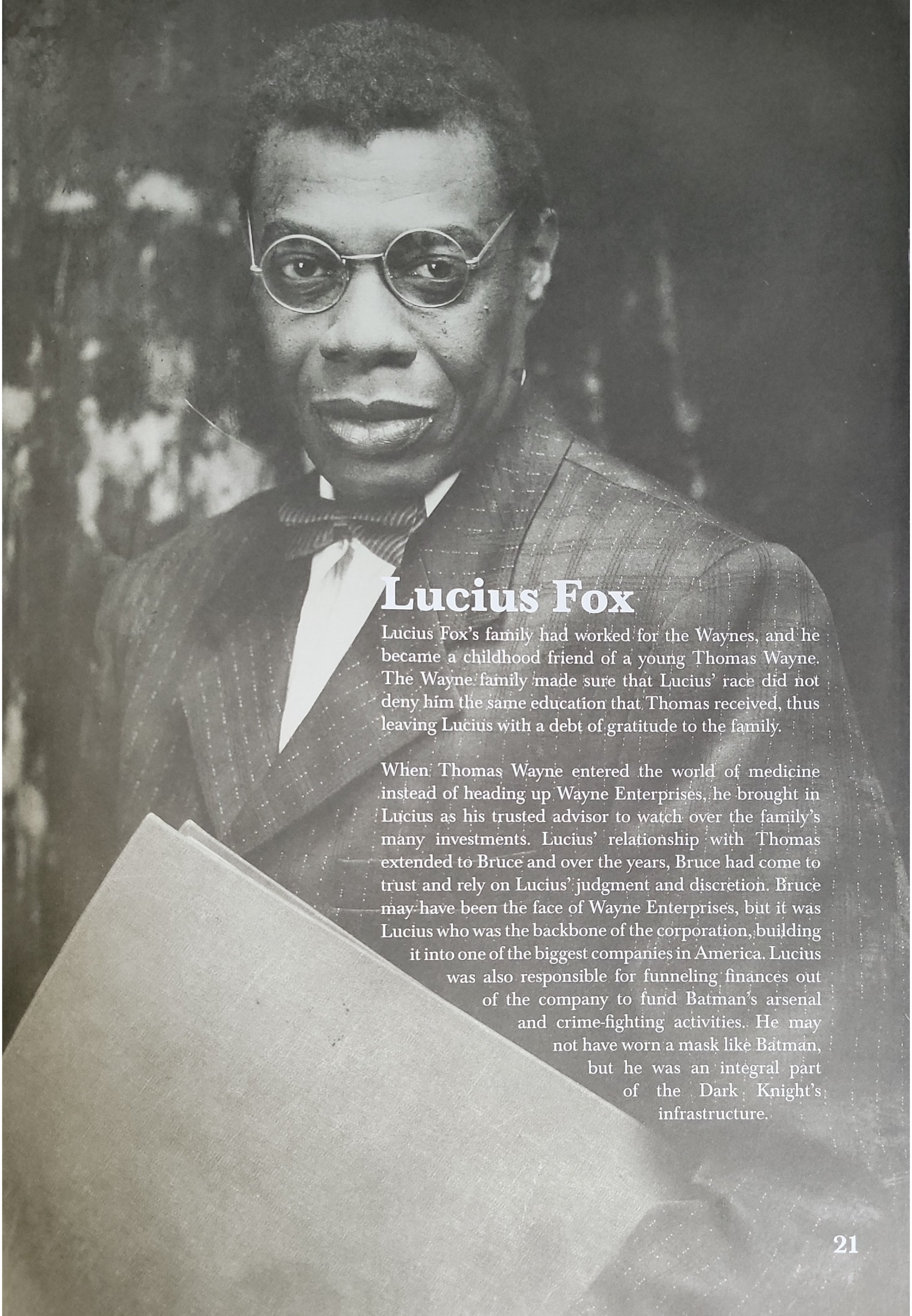
Alfred Pennyworth

Alfred Pennyworth was the Wayne's dedicated family butler, and became Bruce's legal guardian after his parents were murdered.

Alfred was an Englishman by birth, and had come to America after serving many years in His Majesty's Royal Forces. He was a veteran of the Anglo-Zulu War (1879) and the First Boer War (1880-81). Alfred planned to work for the Waynes for only a short time, but to his surprise, he enjoyed the role of being a gentleman's gentleman. All he knew was the strict routine of the armed forces, and in many ways he found that the similar regiment of being a butler suited his constitution. He became an extension of the Wayne family – a valued friend and confidant.

Upon the deaths of Thomas and Martha Wayne, he was overwhelmed to discover that they wished for him to be young Bruce's legal guardian. Throughout the years, Alfred became much more than just a butler. Alfred became the grandfather Bruce never had, the friend that he desperately needed and the first teacher on his journey to become the Bat.

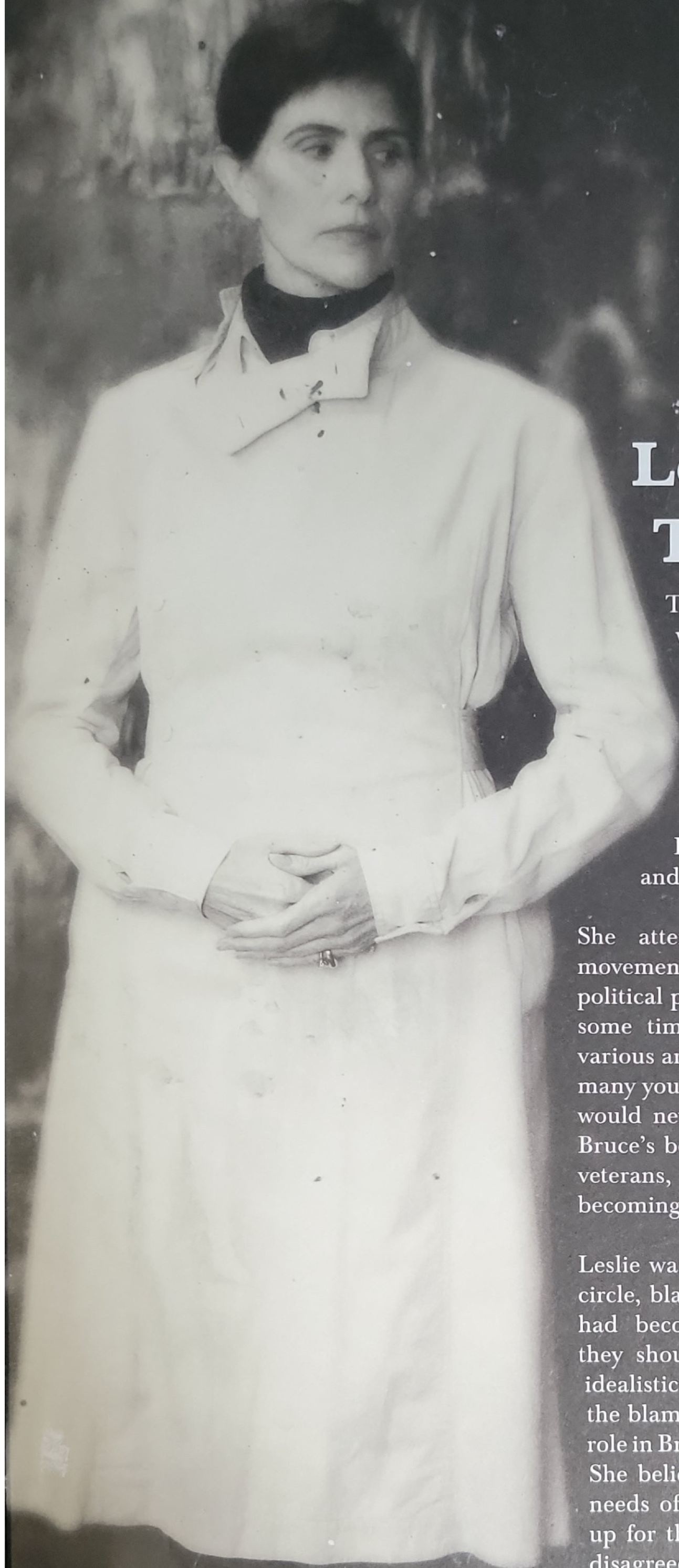




Lucius Fox

Lucius Fox's family had worked for the Waynes, and he became a childhood friend of a young Thomas Wayne. The Wayne family made sure that Lucius' race did not deny him the same education that Thomas received, thus leaving Lucius with a debt of gratitude to the family.

When Thomas Wayne entered the world of medicine instead of heading up Wayne Enterprises, he brought in Lucius as his trusted advisor to watch over the family's many investments. Lucius' relationship with Thomas extended to Bruce and over the years, Bruce had come to trust and rely on Lucius' judgment and discretion. Bruce may have been the face of Wayne Enterprises, but it was Lucius who was the backbone of the corporation, building it into one of the biggest companies in America. Lucius was also responsible for funneling finances out of the company to fund Batman's arsenal and crime-fighting activities. He may not have worn a mask like Batman, but he was an integral part of the Dark Knight's infrastructure.



Leslie Tompkins

The last of Bruce's family-bound allies was Leslie Tompkins. She was Thomas Wayne's protégé, and spent much of her time with the Wayne family. Thomas Wayne would often say that she was a better doctor than he ever was, despite her bedside manner. In a time when female doctors were not as common, Leslie had no problem speaking her mind and asserting herself.

She attended college during the suffragette movement and became an active campaigner and political protestor for women's rights. Leslie spent some time abroad during the war, working at various army hospitals in Europe, trying to save as many young lives as she could, hoping that the day would never come when she would come across Bruce's body in front of her. Like most returning veterans, Leslie was changed by the conflict, becoming cynical and hardened by the world.

Leslie was a reluctant member of Batman's inner circle, blaming Alfred and Lucius for what Bruce had become. In her mind, she believed that they should have never indulged young Bruce's idealistic delusions of revenge, but soon focused the blame on herself for not taking a more active role in Bruce's life after his parents were murdered. She believed that by taking care of the medical needs of his vigilante activities, she could make up for this loss, even though she fundamentally disagreed with Batman's methods.

Harvey Dent

Harvey Dent was Bruce Wayne's best friend and one of Gotham City's greatest sons. Harvey was born to a working-class family. Sadly, his father was a drunk and would regularly beat him and his mother. This made Harvey very independent, as he never wanted to rely on his father for anything. Through hard work and his natural athletic ability, he managed to receive a scholarship to Gotham University. This is where he became friends with Bruce Wayne. The two were college roommates and from the moment they met, their competitive natures spurred each other on to reach goals that neither would have achieved on their own. Harvey graduated from Law School with top marks.

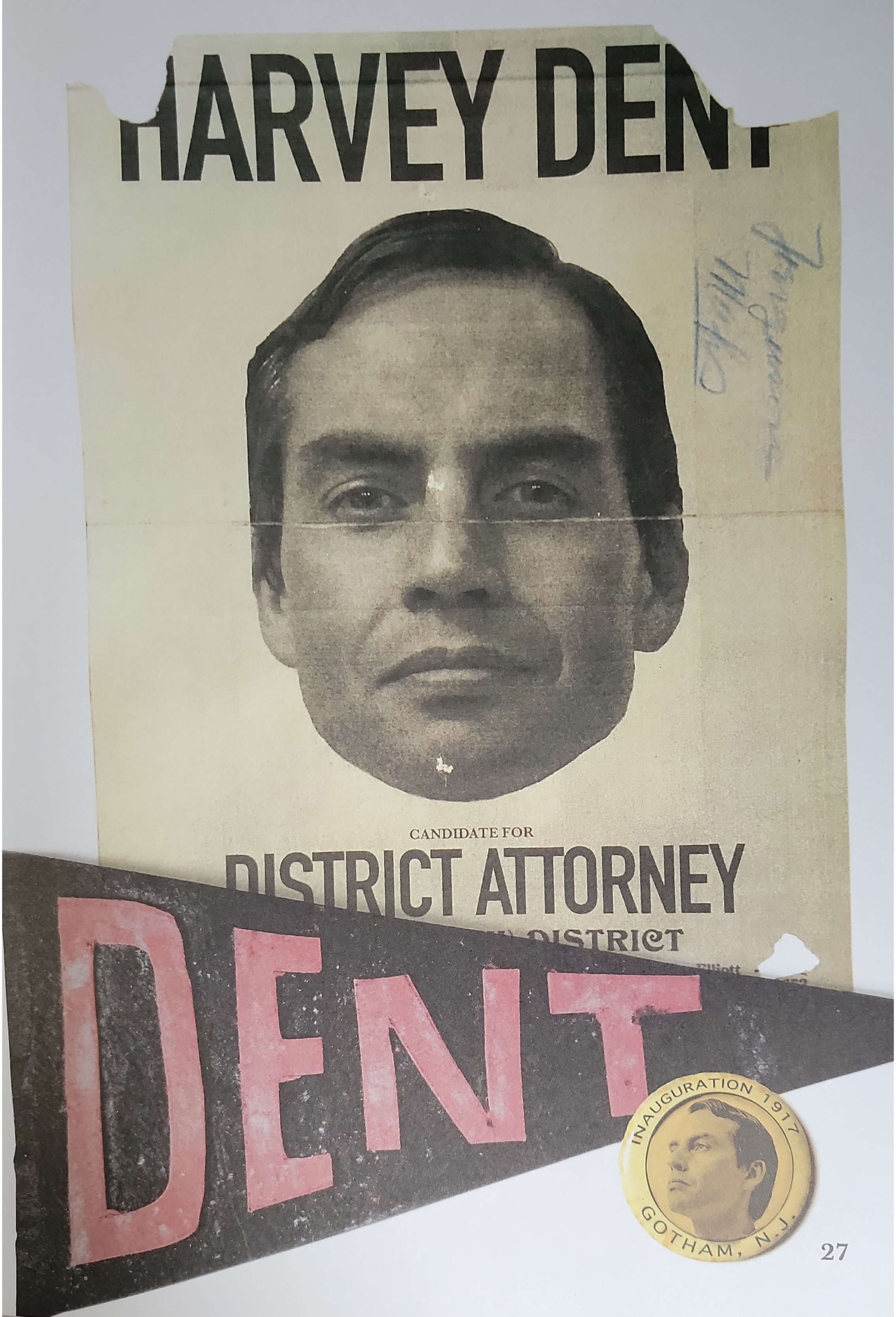
Backed by his friend Bruce, the richest man in the city, Harvey became the youngest District Attorney in Gotham's history. He was elected on his promise to weed out the corruption plaguing the Justice system. His rising star seemed to have no limits. When the Great War began, Harvey saw an opportunity to fight for his country and return as a war hero. With that title under his belt there would be no stopping a swift rise to becoming Gotham's Mayor.

But things didn't go as planned. While Harvey was on the frontline in France, he took shrapnel to the face. Leslie Tompkins did her best to help repair the damage from this horrific injury, however, the once handsome young man's political career was stopped in its tracks. Upon returning to Gotham, his fiancé left him. With his career in ruins and his best friend missing in action, Dent resorted to the one thing he promised that he would never ever do: ask for his father's help.

He moved into his family home, hiding his injuries and shame behind a tin mask. Becoming a recluse, many people thought this would be the last time they ever heard of Harvey., But what was growing inside him would make the people of Gotham never forget his name again.

ABOVE: Bruce and Harvey at Gotham University; the best of friends, yet the fiercest of rivals.

RIGHT: A collection of Harvey Dent's campaign paraphernalia that helped him become the youngest District Attorney in Gotham's history.

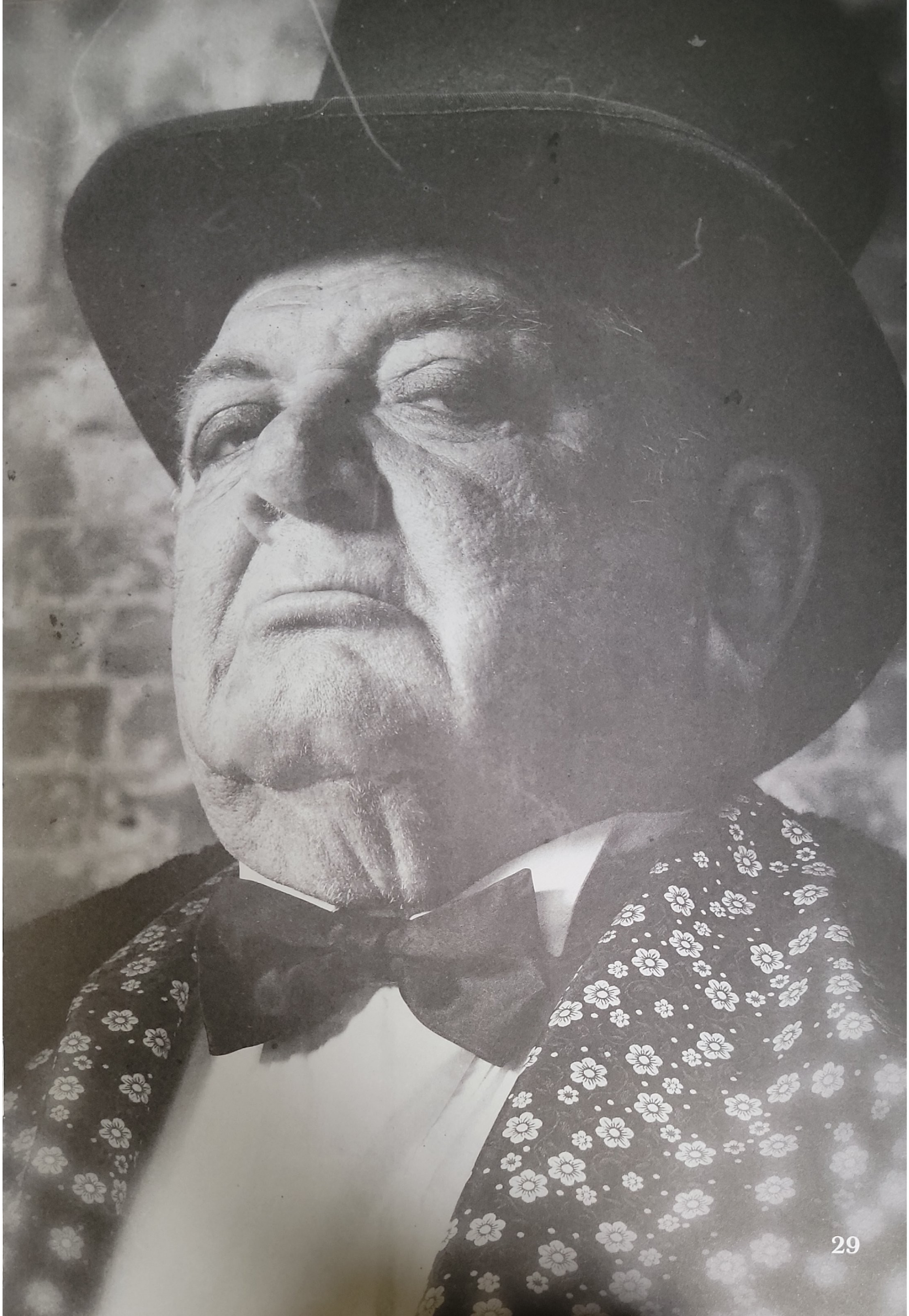

HARVEY DENT
CANDIDATE FOR
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
DENT
INAUGURATION 1917
GOTHAM, N.J.

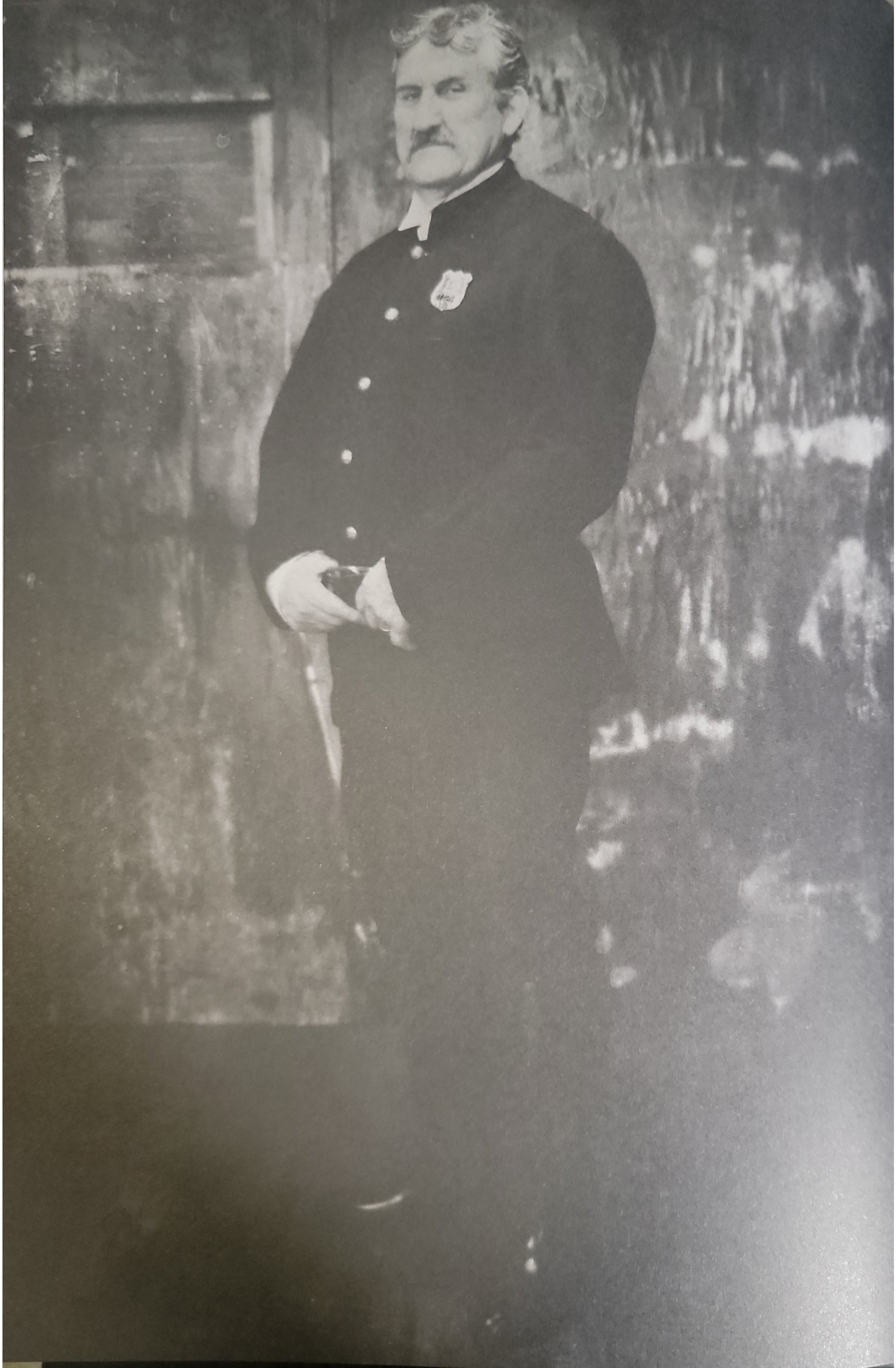
The Penguin

Along with the Falcone family, the other major player in the gang wars of Gotham was Oswald Chesterfield Cobblepot, better known as "The Penguin". This nickname stuck with Oswald from a very young age. Oswald's mother, Esther, was the daughter of the elite Cobblepots, one of the founding families of Gotham. However, she was shunned by her family for falling in love with a drunk and abusive man of low status. Bill Tucker was a thief and a liar, who saw the affection that the naive girl had for him as a way to a better life. Thinking he had found a shortcut to wealth, Bill impregnated her out of wedlock. When the pregnancy was discovered, Mr. Robert Cobblepot cut all ties to his daughter and the baby.

After being disowned, Esther moved into the slum known as the Barrows, the only place she could start a new life. While the young family did not have riches, she was content. However, Bill soon grew bored and ran off, leaving her and Oswald all alone. As Oswald grew, Esther convinced herself that she could be welcomed back into her wealthy family one day. Every spare cent she had was spent on dressing Oswald in the clothes of someone who would suit high society. In the slums of Gotham, this was seen as an invitation for trouble. Oswald was bullied from a young age about his weight and for the clothes he wore, earning the nickname of the Penguin as an insult. He realized he had two options: either to be a target, or retaliate and fight. He chose the latter.

His first objective was to take over his street, then his block and then his neighborhood. Oswald realized he did not need his mother's family to gain respect and power; he could seize it violently for himself. By the time Oswald was 25-years-old, he ran half the city of Gotham, adopting the name of the Penguin with pride.





James Gordon

The youngest son of Irish immigrants, James "Jim" Gordon was the only one of his brothers to survive the Great War. While many returned veterans had experienced enough fighting to last a lifetime, Gordon still had the desire to serve and protect his city.

He quickly earned a reputation as a fair but tough cop, one that was incorruptible, with many crooks receiving a beating for their attempts to bribe him. James Gordon might have been the only good man on the city's payroll, but one good man was all Batman needed.

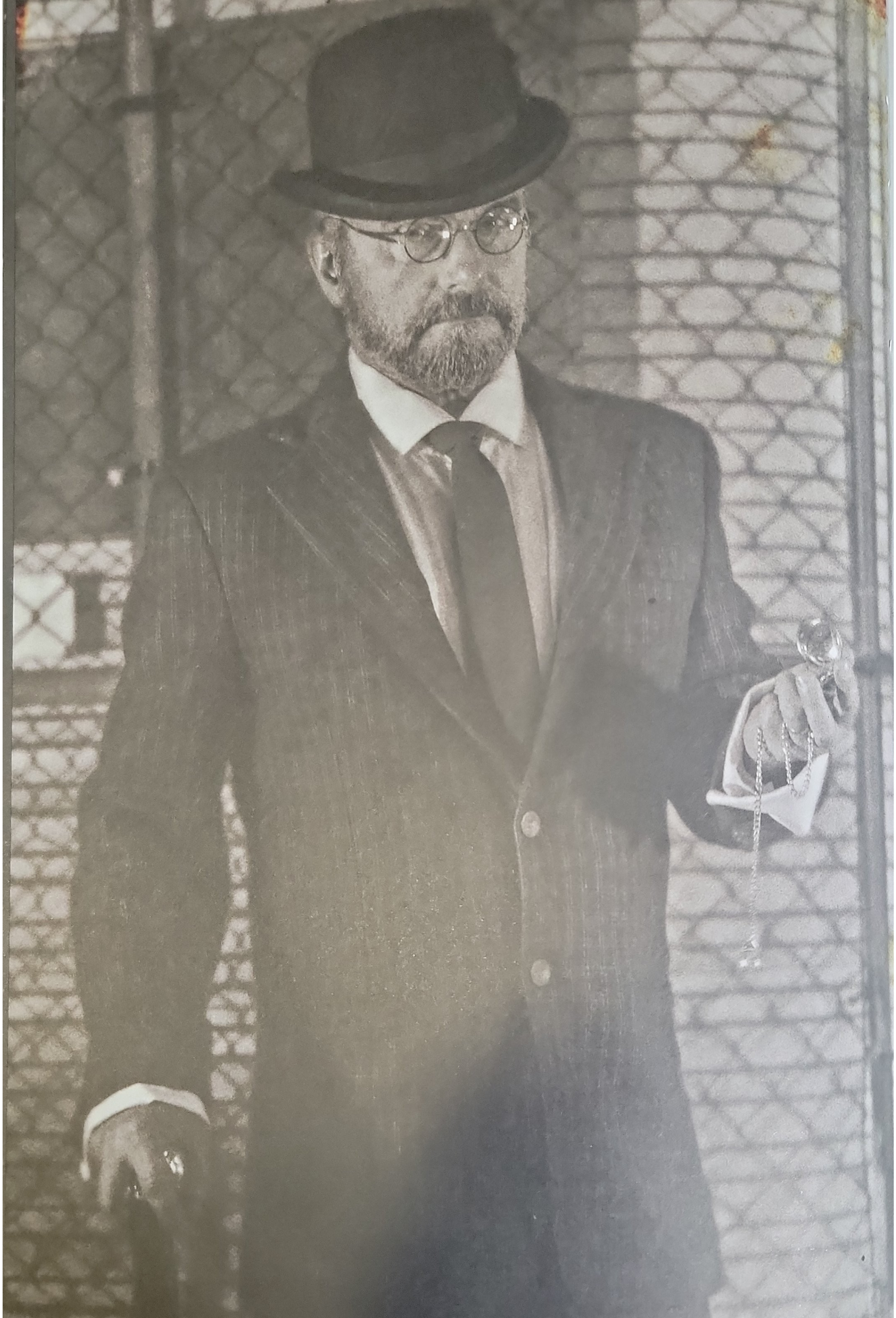
BELOW: Young James Gordon when he was simply a beat cop

Selina Kyle

From a young age, Selina Kyle was well known to the Gotham City Police Department. She worked her way up from the gutter, leaving an abusive home and living on the streets until she was picked up by Gotham's most powerful Madam, Miss Rose. Due to a legality, only women could own and manage brothels, something that Miss Rose exploited to her full advantage. Selina, under the alias of "Kitty", became Miss Rose's right-hand woman. Selina managed all of Miss Rose's establishments, taking care of problems when they arose. She turned into a great manipulator, blackmailing Gotham's elite after seducing them into compromising positions. However, she was also not afraid of using brute force when required.

In the following years, Miss Rose began to lose control of the flesh trade, with Falcone and Penguin's outfits taking over. These mobs took out Miss Rose quickly, forcing Selina into hiding, knowing she would soon be targeted. To survive, Selina realized she would need to vanish and never let her identity be exposed again. She would need to become a rumor, a mystery, a myth. She would need to become like Batman.

BELOW: Examples of images that Selina would create and then use to exploit men of weak character and large wallets.

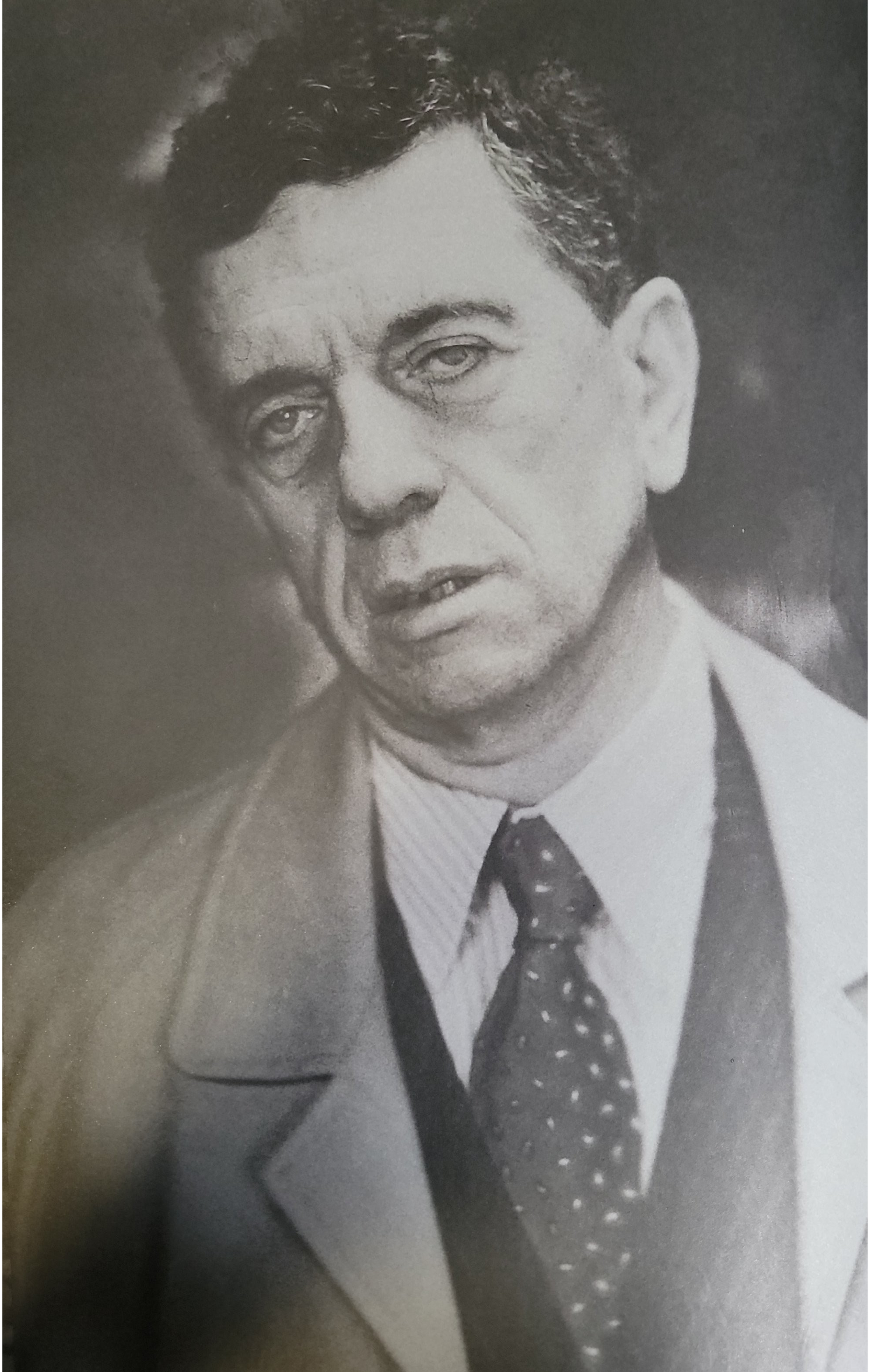


Clock King

Temple Fugate was a veteran of the Great War. Like many others, he returned home a changed man. He no longer thought of his country as the land of the free. He believed that the current political parties were corrupt, existing only to serve the rich and were willing to selfishly sacrifice their own people. Temple would join the "Galleanists", a growing anarchist movement – named after their leader, Luigi Galleani. It was believed that Temple, along with Professor Ettore Molinari, were the key players involved in the 1920 Wall Street bombing. He relocated to Gotham from New York after the incident.

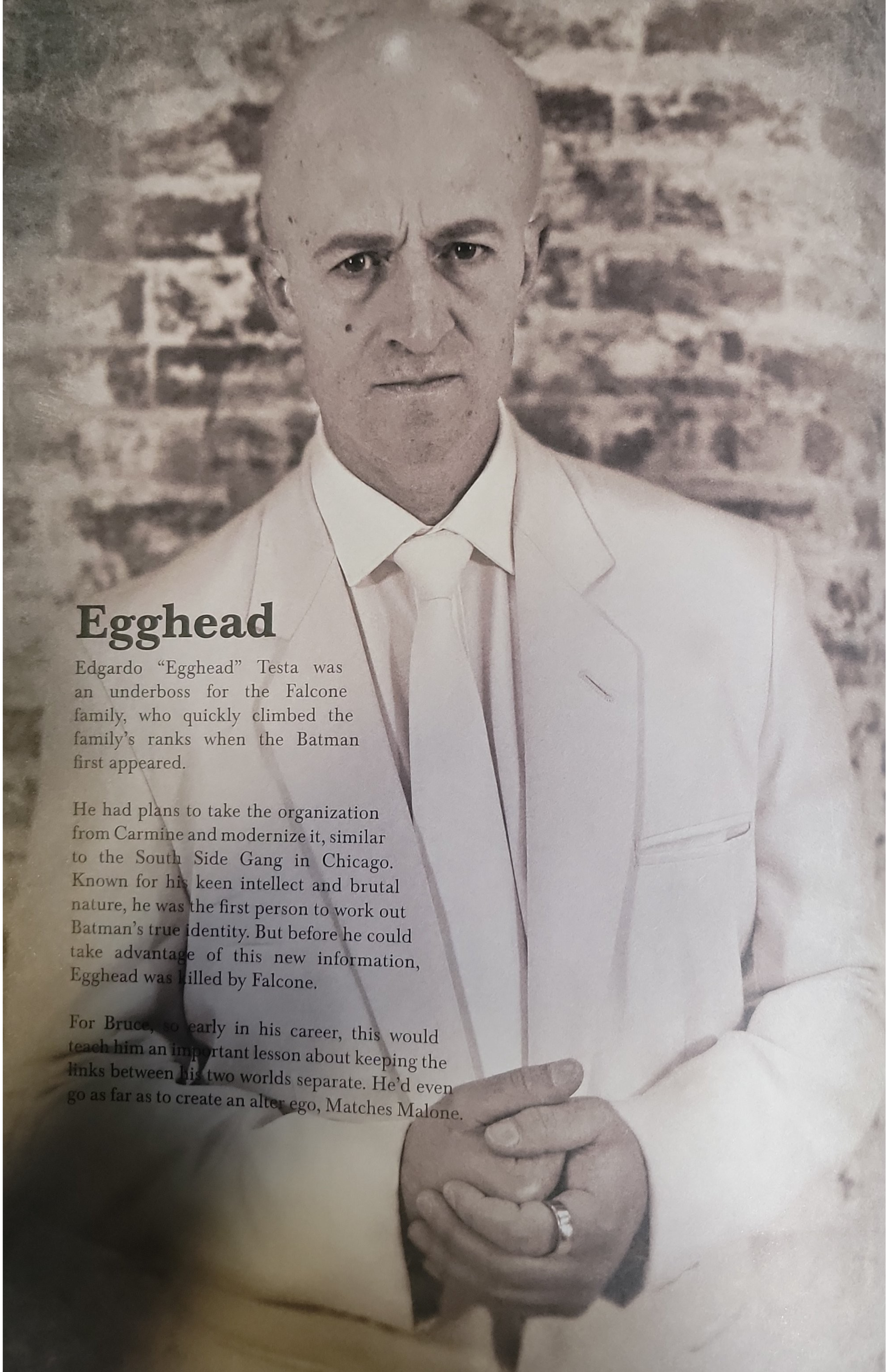
Temple continued to fight for the Bolshevik doctrine by, as he put it, "bombing symbols of wealth and corruption". He'd later earn the nickname the "Clock King", a reference to the timers he'd use on his many explosive devices.

TOP: One of the Clock King's explosives that was disarmed by Batman before it could detonate.



Carmine Falcone

The Falcone crime family was one of the earliest organized crime institutions in Gotham. Carmine and his brothers started the gang soon after their arrival in America, emulating the structure of the famous Sicilian gangs of New York and Chicago. Those early years, or "before the madness" as Carmine referred to it, was a golden run for Gotham's Casa Nostra. In the years to come, they would deal with vigilantes, rivals, kidnappers, terrorists and psychopaths. These colorful and malicious characters were finally able to take away the Falcone gang's most powerful weapon: fear. Without it they could no longer control the people of Gotham, the gang had become a lion without its teeth and claws. It was clear that the traditional criminals were not prepared for the changes coming to their underworld.

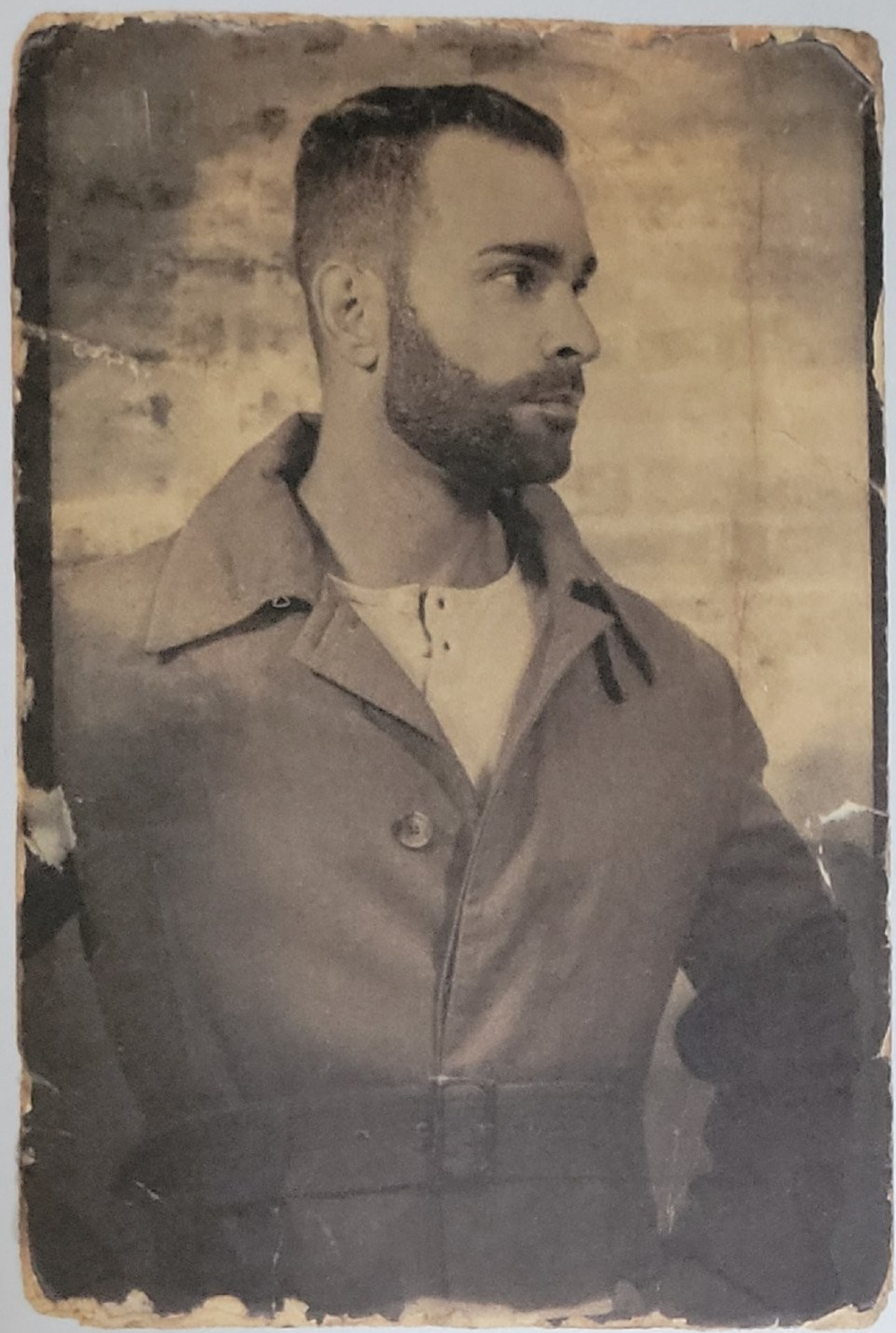


Egghead

Edgardo "Egghead" Testa was an underboss for the Falcone family, who quickly climbed the family's ranks when the Batman first appeared.

He had plans to take the organization from Carmine and modernize it, similar to the South Side Gang in Chicago. Known for his keen intellect and brutal nature, he was the first person to work out Batman's true identity. But before he could take advantage of this new information, Egghead was killed by Falcone.

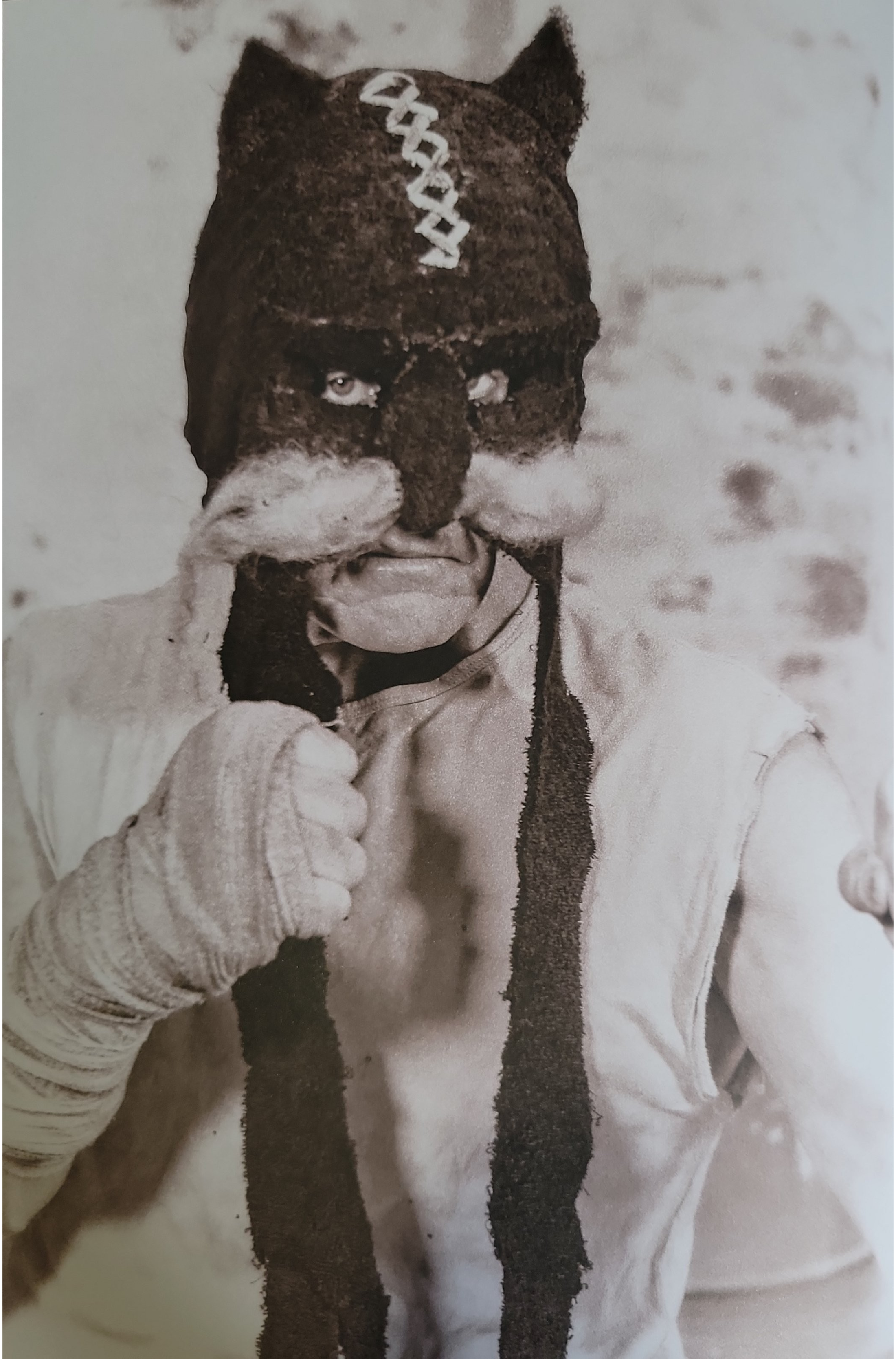
For Bruce, so early in his career, this would teach him an important lesson about keeping the links between his two worlds separate. He'd even go as far as to create an alter ego, Matches Malone.



Above: Bruce Wayne adventuring portrait (1917).

Above: Recovered "Zatara The Master Magician" playbill signed to Bruce by Zatara himself.

Below: Bruce Wayne's belongings left behind at the League Of Assassins.



Wildcat

Bruce first encountered Ted Grant at the age of 13, when he was hired by Alfred to become his boxing coach. Ted was a champion prize fighter who fought under the name "Wildcat".

He was also the man that looked after his neighborhood. While he didn't patrol the streets or have an arsenal of weapons at his disposal, he did have his fists. If a husband beat his wife or some guy messed with some kids, they would get a visit from the Wildcat. From time to time, Bruce would bring Ted back to help train some of his protégés in the sweet science.

A young Ted Grant in his boxing prime.

Black Mask

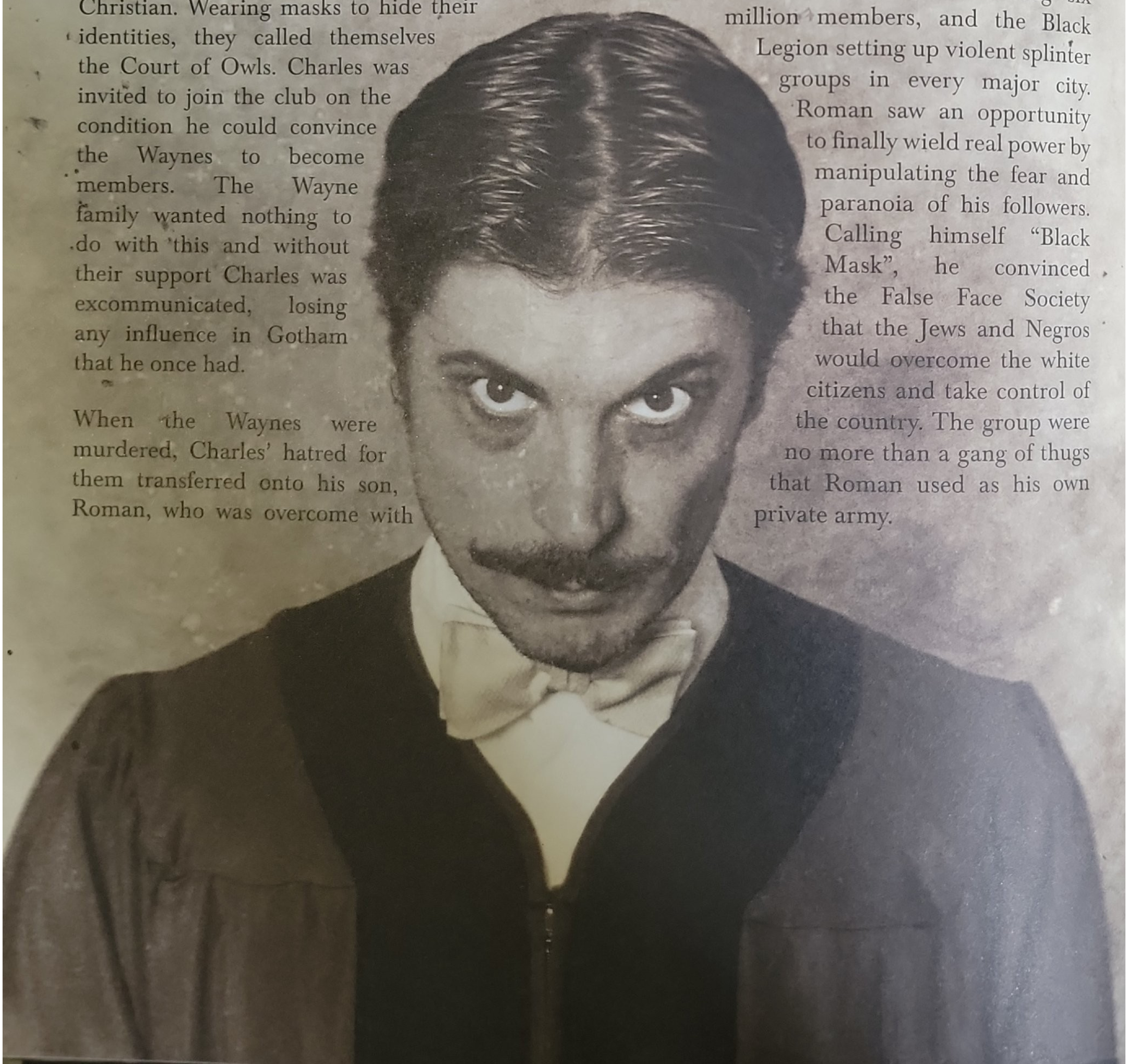
Roman Sionis was born into the same social circles as Bruce Wayne, but didn't receive the same love, kindness, or support. The Sionis family discouraged emotion and love. They had no warm words for their son, instead focusing all their attention on their elite status in Gotham's society. The Sionis' were what people referred to as "new money", their wealth coming from cosmetics and their successful chain of drugstores.

Roman's father, Charles, had a history of jealousy toward the Wayne dynasty, which stemmed from Thomas Wayne's refusal to be involved in the Owl Creek Country Club. In the years following the Civil War, influential families banded together to form a secret society to control the city and ensure the future of Gotham would be white and Christian. Wearing masks to hide their identities, they called themselves the Court of Owls. Charles was invited to join the club on the condition he could convince the Waynes to become members. The Wayne family wanted nothing to do with this and without their support Charles was excommunicated, losing any influence in Gotham that he once had.

When the Waynes were murdered, Charles' hatred for them transferred onto his son, Roman, who was overcome with jealousy when Bruce inherited the Wayne estate at such a young age. This jealousy ate away at Roman, who eventually murdered his parents to gain control of their funds. Over the next few years, Roman lost his family's fortune and ran the business into the ground.

Realizing he had lost what remained of his family's power, he decided to create his own secret club based on the stories his father told him about the Court of Owls. His wouldn't be made up of the rich and powerful, but the poor and angry. They would be called the False Face Society.

By 1925, white nationalist organizations were growing around the country, with the second wave of Ku Klux Klan boasting six million members, and the Black Legion setting up violent splinter groups in every major city. Roman saw an opportunity to finally wield real power by manipulating the fear and paranoia of his followers. Calling himself "Black Mask", he convinced the False Face Society that the Jews and Negros would overcome the white citizens and take control of the country. The group were no more than a gang of thugs that Roman used as his own private army.



ABOVE: The robes of the False Face Society were designed to mimic the traditional garb of The Freemasons and The Court Of Owls.

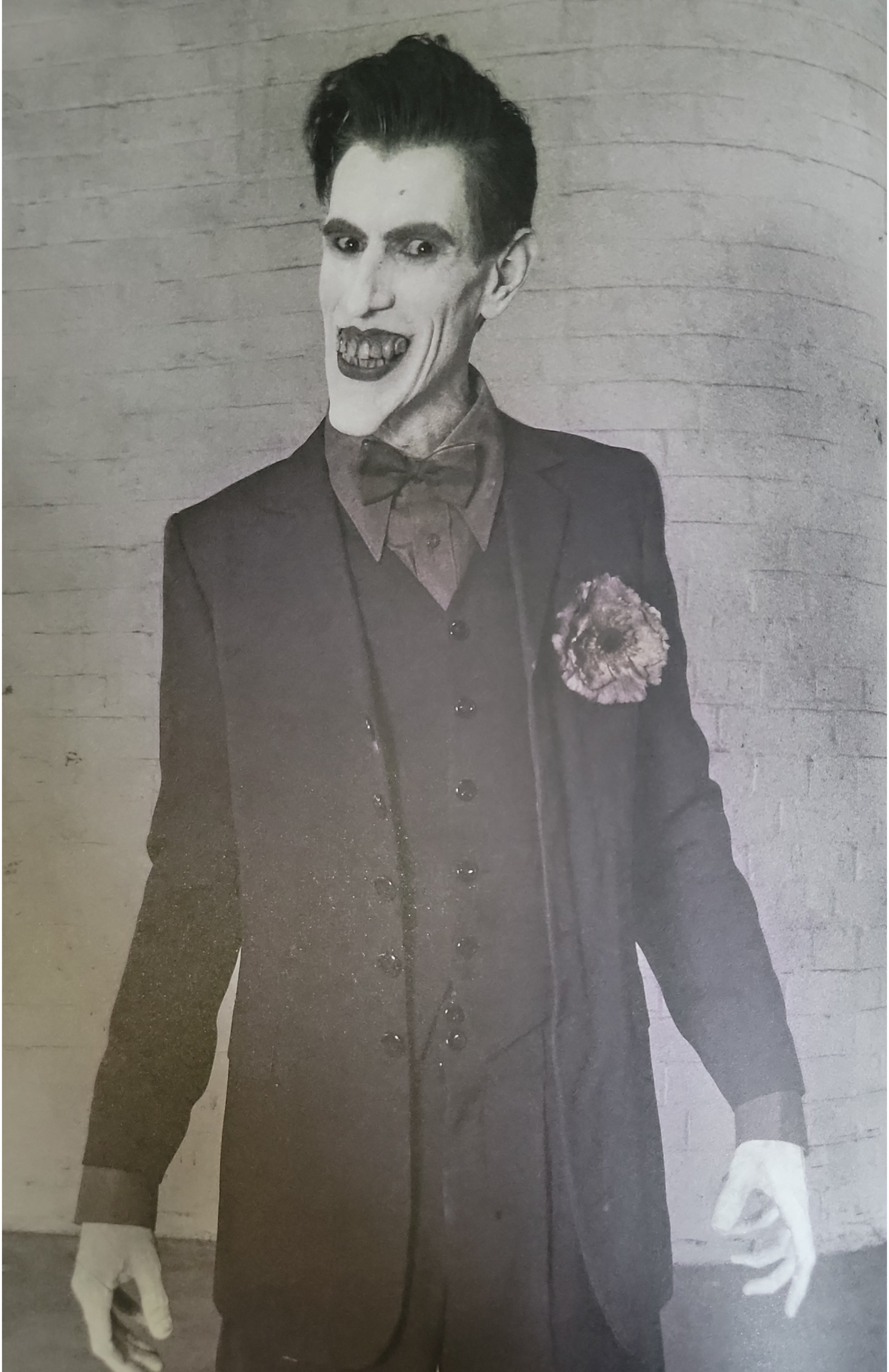
BELOW: The False Face Society would wear something far less theatrical during their criminal activities.

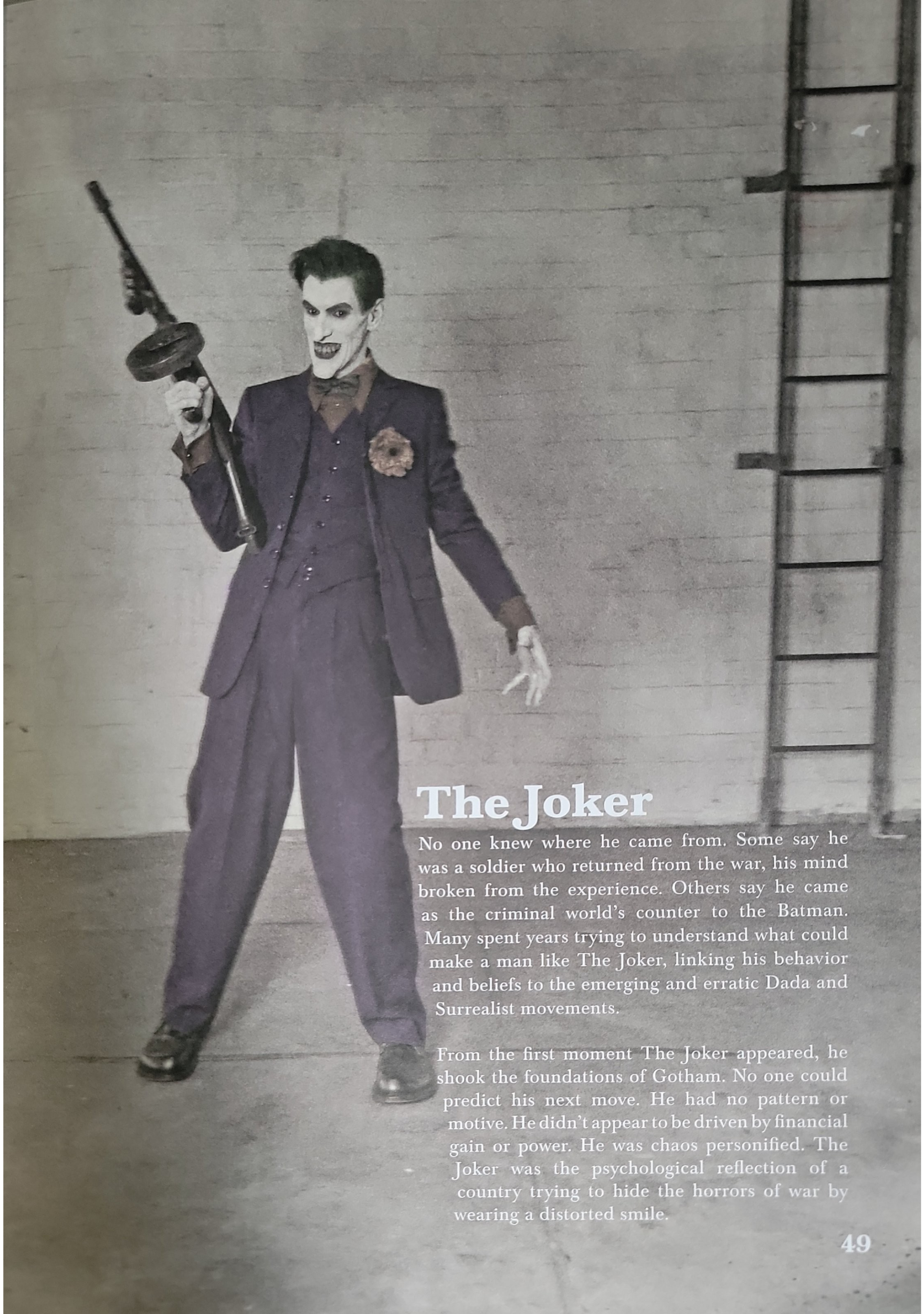
The Batcave

Under the foundations of Wayne Manor is a naturally formed series of caves that Bruce turned into Batman's command center, the Batcave. First discovering the caves as a child, Bruce spent countless hours exploring and mapping its geography. Even at that young age he was planning how he would transform this natural fortress into a state-of-the-art base of operations to house the tools and equipment he would need to save Gotham. Over the years the Batcave saw many upgrades, but it was not until Harold Allnut became a permanent resident that the cave fully became what Bruce had envisioned for it.

Rupert Thorn

Corruption was commonplace amongst Gotham's trade unions, courts and police, and politics were no different. Rupert Thorn was the city's treasurer and had his fingers in every pie in Gotham. Holding strong links to organized crime and Gotham's elite families, Rupert became untouchable by the traditional justice system. So Batman took it upon himself to target the corrupt treasurer. Bruce crippled Thorn's political status through lobbying efforts by Wayne Enterprises and then destroyed his underworld protection as the Dark Knight. After his political destruction, Thorn emerged as a fully-fledged gangster, becoming a major player in the gang wars of Gotham.





The Joker

No one knew where he came from. Some say he was a soldier who returned from the war, his mind broken from the experience. Others say he came as the criminal world's counter to the Batman. Many spent years trying to understand what could make a man like The Joker, linking his behavior and beliefs to the emerging and erratic Dada and Surrealist movements.

From the first moment The Joker appeared, he shook the foundations of Gotham. No one could predict his next move. He had no pattern or motive. He didn't appear to be driven by financial gain or power. He was chaos personified. The Joker was the psychological reflection of a country trying to hide the horrors of war by wearing a distorted smile.

JOKER GETS LIFE TERM IN ARKHAM

Vicki Vale

A man was convicted of killing four people in 1923 was sentenced to life imprisonment on Tuesday by a three-judge panel.

The panel issued its ruling in the case of the "Joker", who was convicted of four counts of first-degree murder for the August 1923 shooting deaths

"Joker", real name still unknown

The Joker arrived in Gotham City only a few short years ago, in that time he has been ever present in the newspaper headlines for becoming Gotham's public enemy number one.

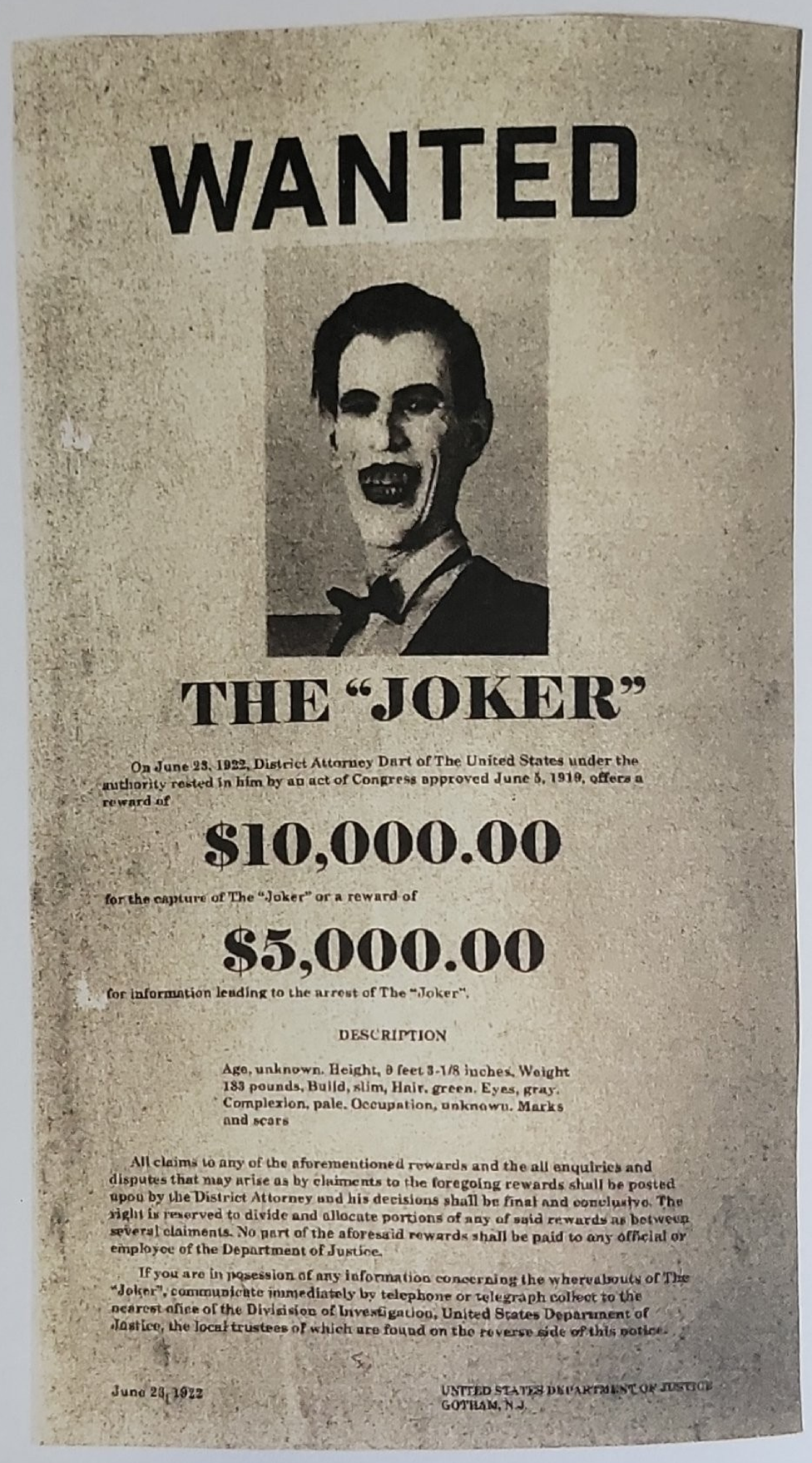
Little is known about The Jokers past, so little in fact that the police have offered a reward for any information regarding information on the Joker's true identify.

These killings join a long list of crimes that he is accused of committing on his rapid rise to power. The Joker is to be believed to the be the first costumed gangster that have now plagued Gotham's streets.

The judicial panel had the option of sentencing the Joker life in Arkham Asylum. The judges cited the heinous nature of the killings in their decision to commit him to the mental institution. The Joker plead no contest, but his sentencing has been delayed for years because of concerns about his mental competency.

His defense psychiatrist said that the Joker suffers from schizophrenia and perhaps a bipolar disorder. Defense lawyers have noted the Joker' habit of painting his face and self-mutilation, as well as his ramblings in court, as proof of a deteriorating mental state.

State psychiatrists, however, have



WANTED

THE "JOKER"

On June 23, 1922, District Attorney Dart of The United States under the authority rested in him by an act of Congress approved June 5, 1919, offers a reward of

$10,000.00

for the capture of The "Joker" or a reward of

$5,000.00

for information leading to the arrest of The "Joker".

DESCRIPTION

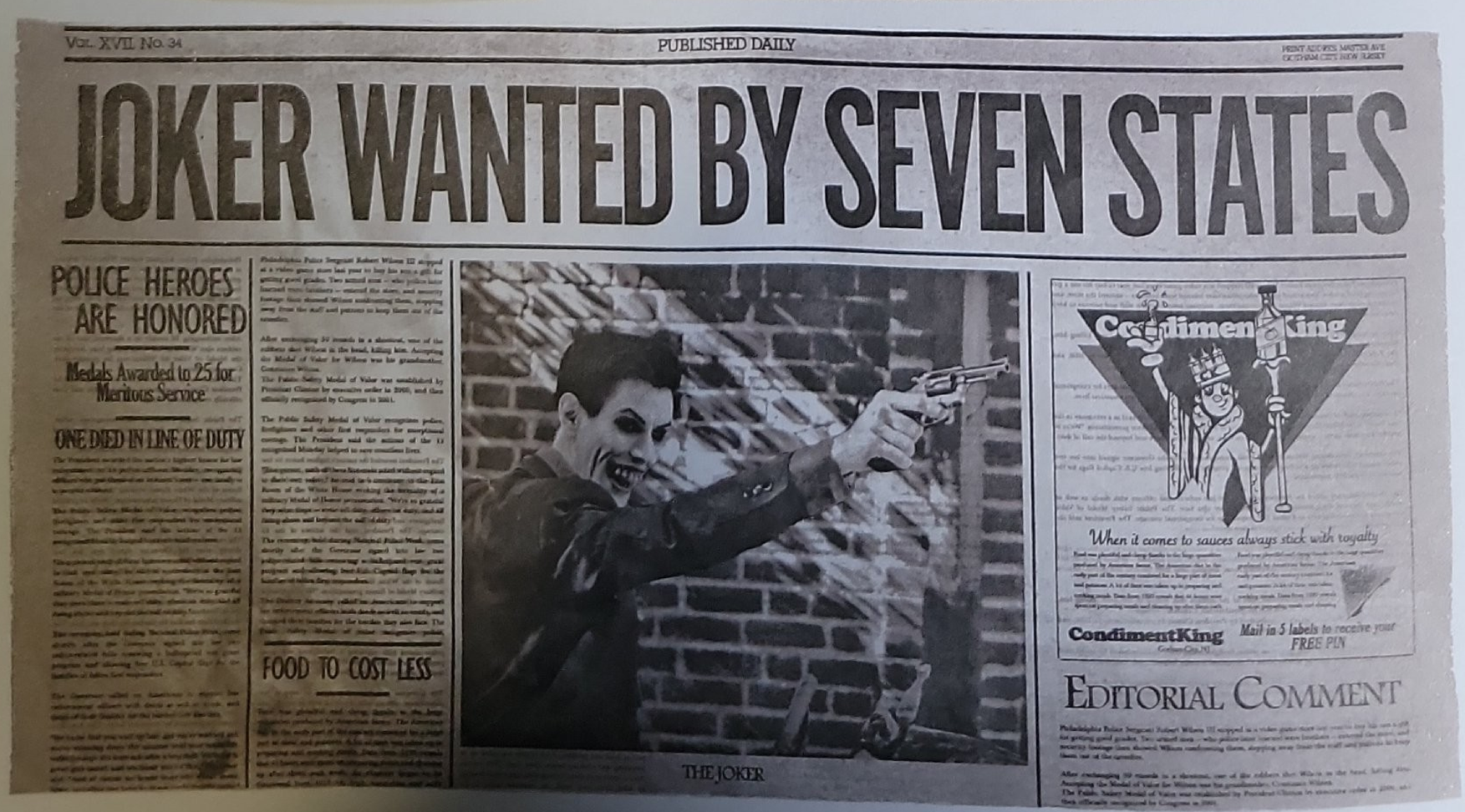
Age, unknown. Height, 6 feet 3-1/8 inches. Weight 183 pounds. Build, slim, Hair, green. Eyes, gray. Complexion, pale. Occupation, unknown. Marks and scars

All claims to any of the aforementioned rewards and the all enquiries and disputes that may arise as by claiments to the foregoing rewards shall be posted upon by the District Attorney and his decisions shall be final and conclusive. The right is reserved to divide and allocate portions of any of said rewards as between several claiments. No part of the aforesaid rewards shall be paid to any official or employee of the Department of Justice.

If you are in posession of any information concerning the whereabouts of The "Joker", communicate immediately by telephone or telegraph collect to the nearest office of the Divisision of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, the local trustees of which are found on the reverse side of this notice.

June 23, 1922

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
GOTHAM, N.J.



Vol. XVII No. 34 PUBLISHED DAILY

JOKER WANTED BY SEVEN STATES

POLICE HEROES ARE HONORED

Medals Awarded to 25 for Meritous Service

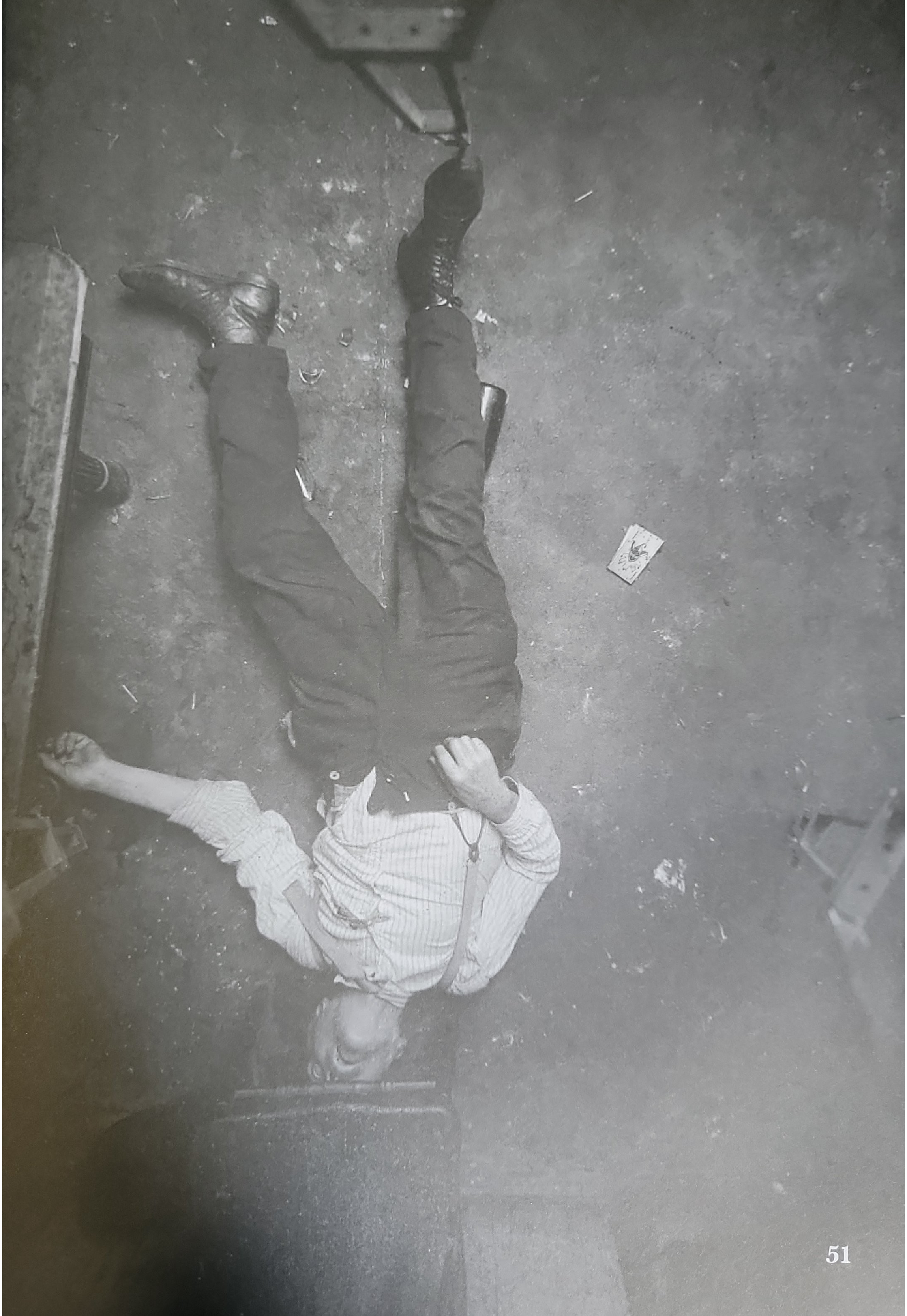
ONE DIED IN LINE OF DUTY

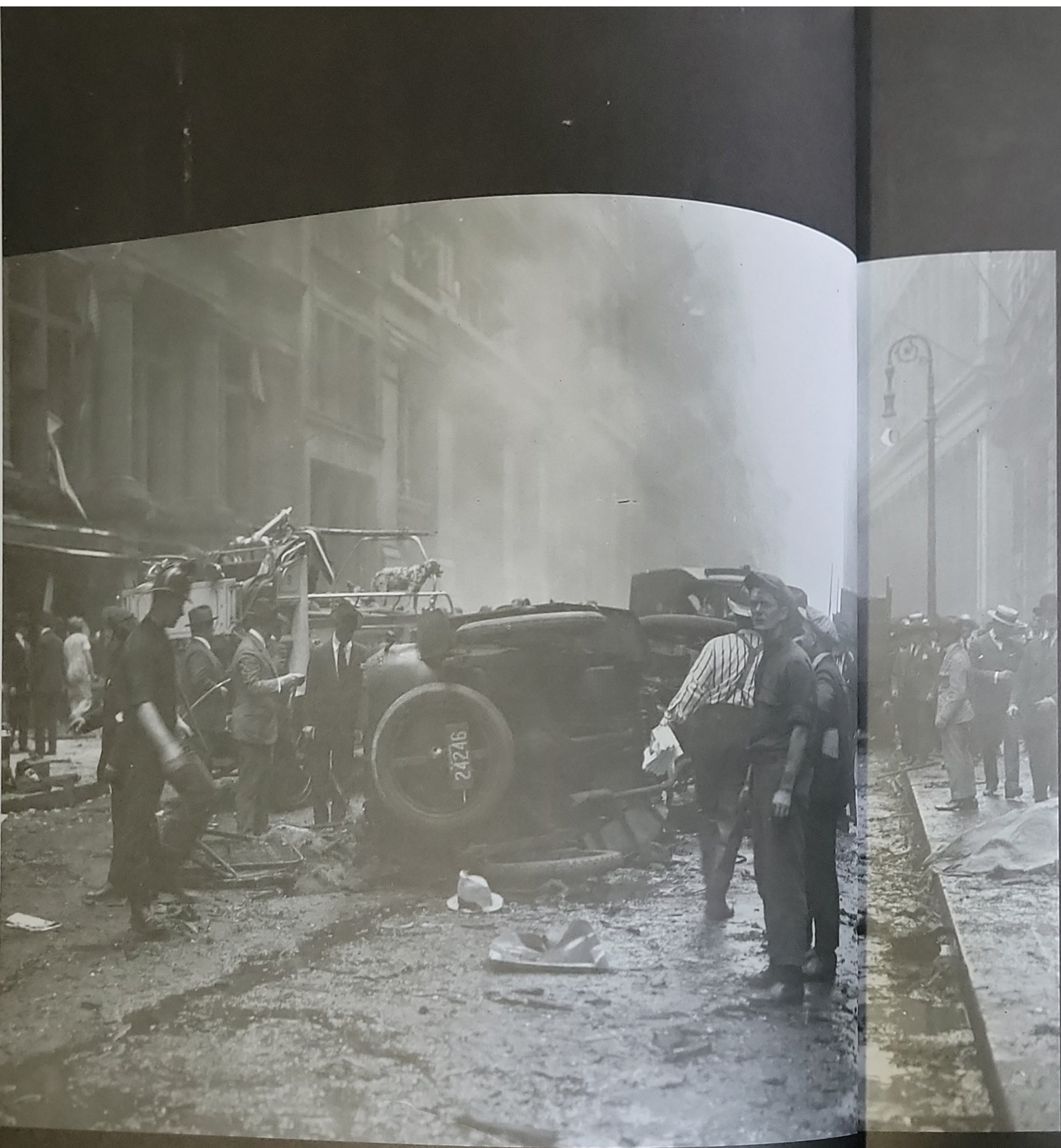
FOOD TO COST LESS

THE JOKER

Condiment King
When it comes to sauces always stick with royalty
CondimentKing
Mail in 5 labels to receive your FREE PIN

EDITORIAL COMMENT





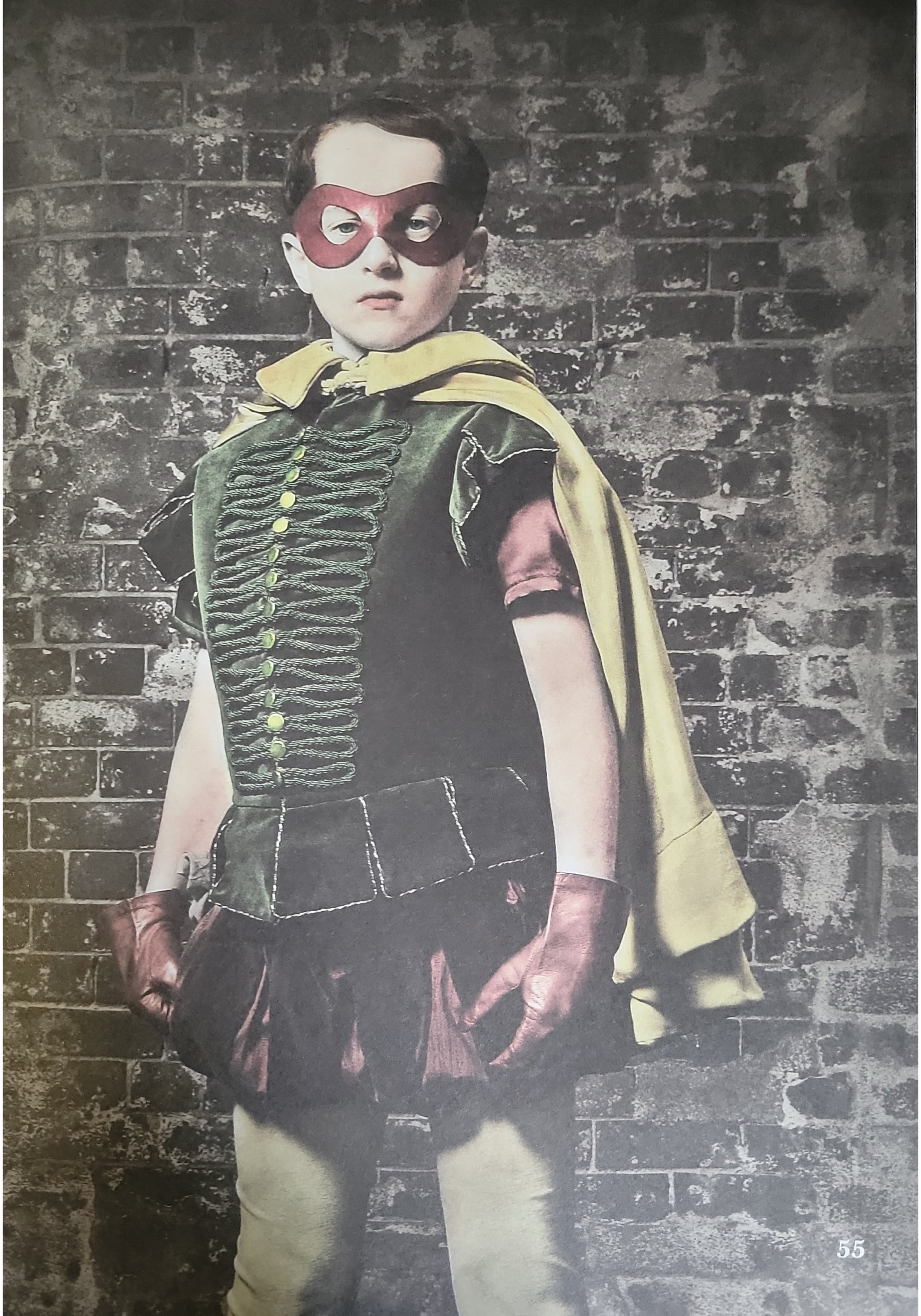
1923 - 1924

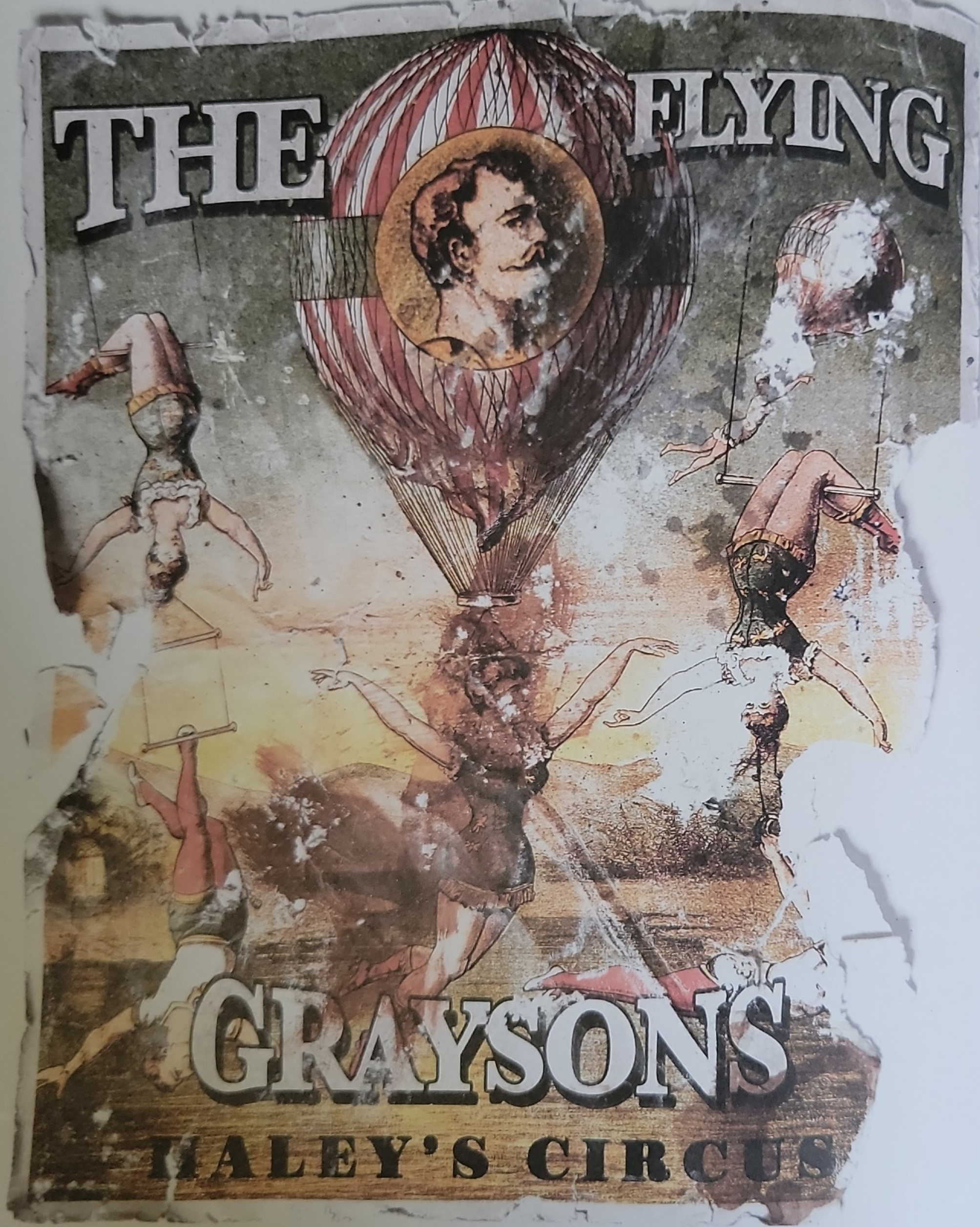
The Clown's Legacy

Robin I
Dick Grayson

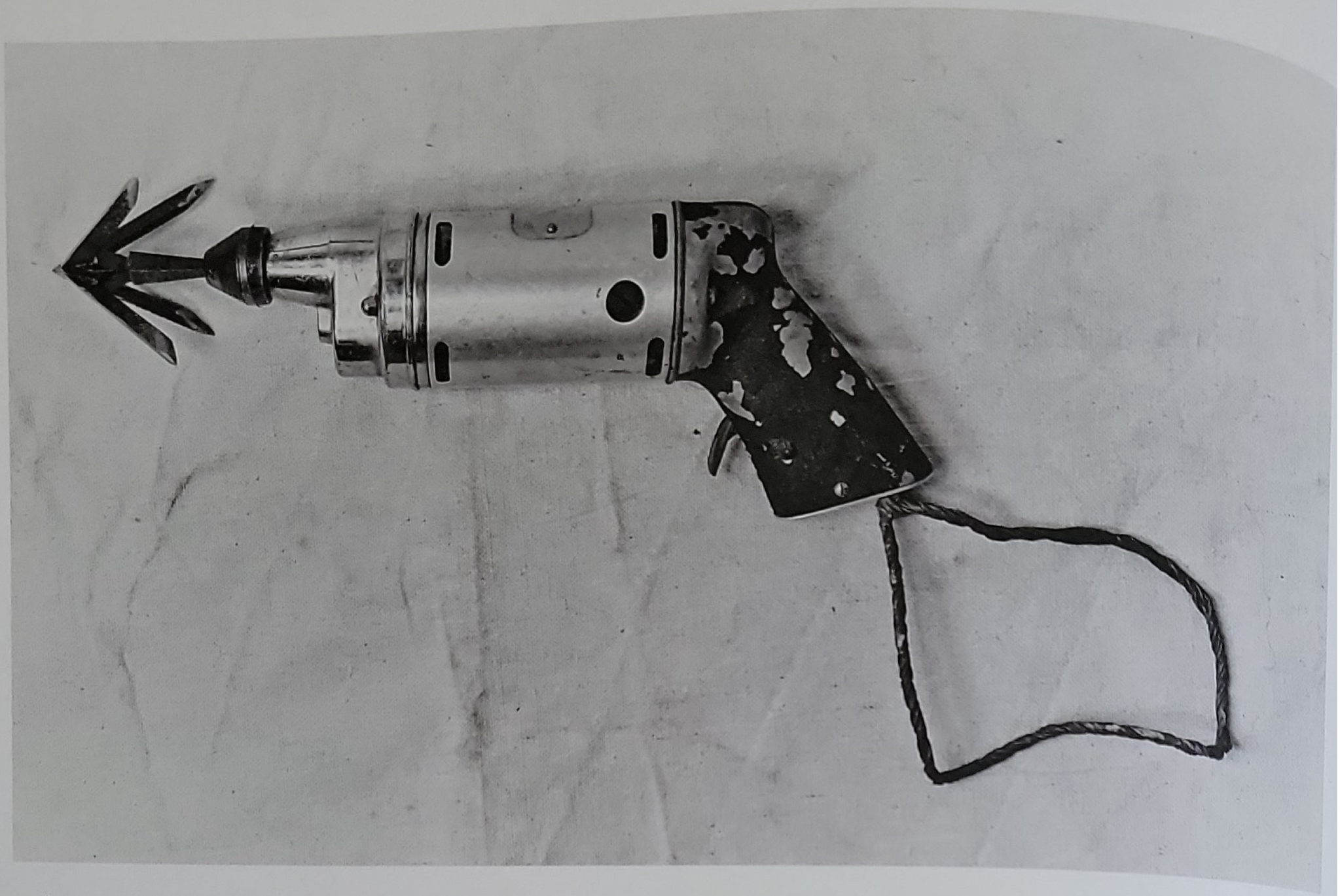
Dick Grayson, the first person to be known as "Robin, The Boy Wonder" was born into a circus family, who were known professionally as the Flying Graysons. From a young age, Dick felt more at home in the air doing acrobatics than on the ground and was considered a child prodigy.

One night while performing in Gotham, a local gangster (who had been trying to strong-arm a protection racket on the circus' owner) sabotaged some of the acrobatic equipment. This resulted in Dick's entire family falling to their deaths. Bruce Wayne was in attendance at the show and empathized with the boy's loss. He ultimately decided to take Dick in as his ward. It wasn't long after that Robin made his first appearance alongside Batman, and the two were labeled the "Dynamic Duo". No one knows why Batman made a 12-year-old boy his partner; perhaps he thought he could help Dick by channeling his emotions into Robin, just like Bruce did with Batman years earlier.

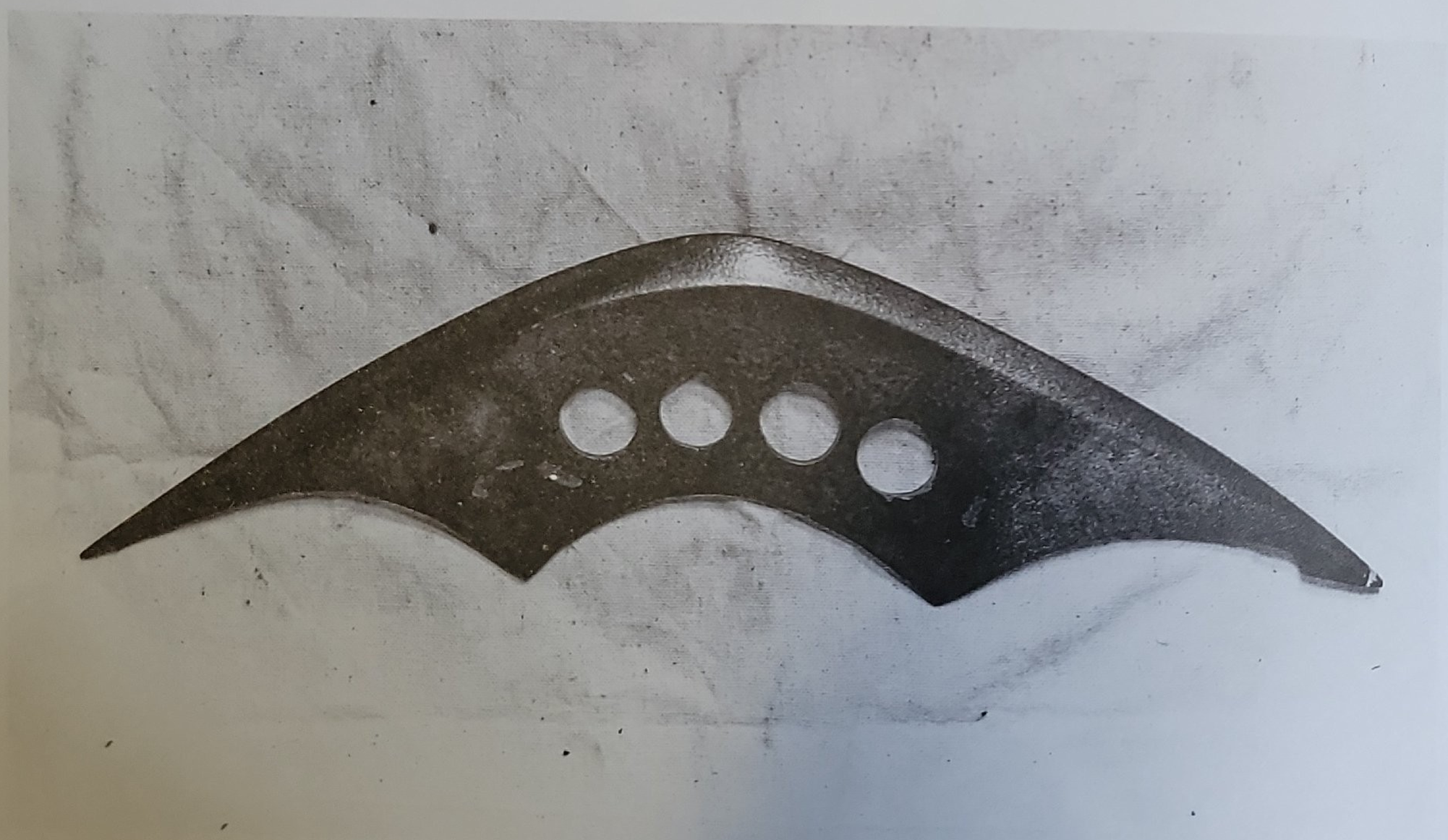




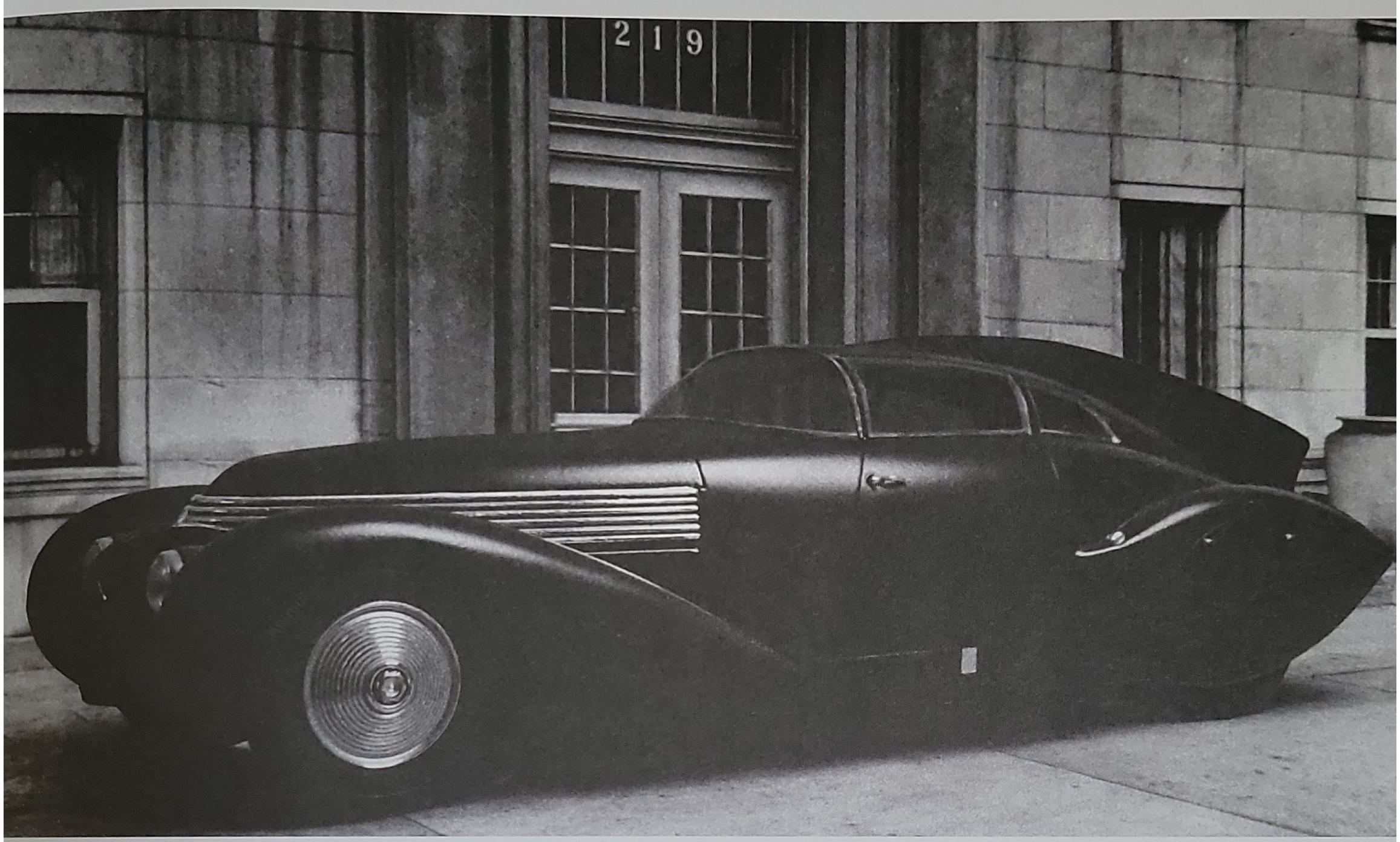
ABOVE: A recovered poster for Haley's Circus, featuring the Flying Graysons, before their tragic accident



ABOVE: An experimental grappling gun used to assist in scaling walls and allowing controlled descent from high rooftops. A one-shot gas-powered canister would launch the metal arrowhead, which was connected to steel wire, while a motorized pulley helped with movement.

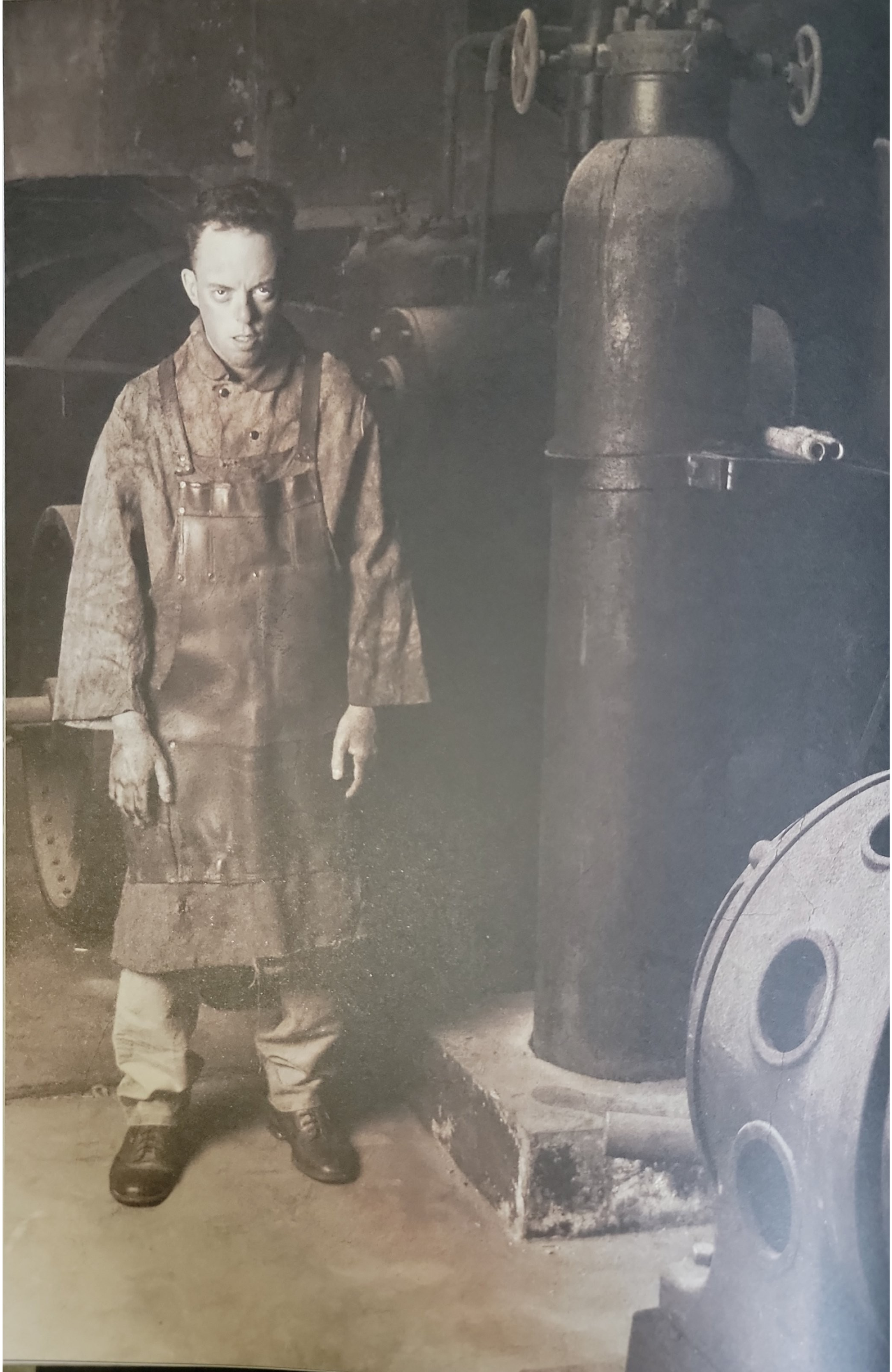


ABOVE: The Bat-a-rang is more than just a simple throwing weapon. It's also great for hand-to-hand combat, and its multi-use features made it an essential tool in Batman's arsenal.



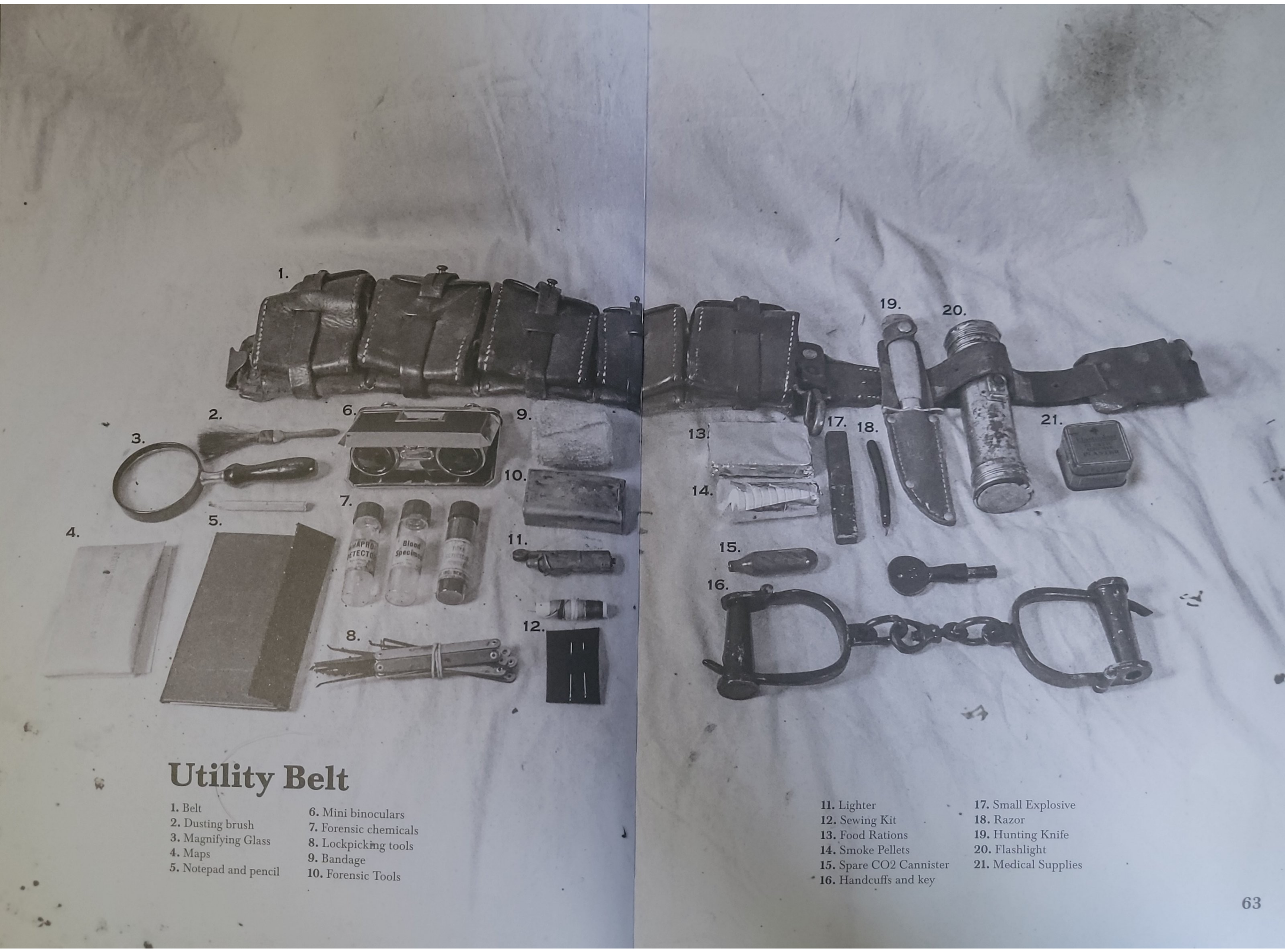
The Batmobile

Batman had a number of vehicles to help him in his duties over the years, the most well-known being the Batmobile. It was more than just simply a means of transport, it was an engineering marvel. The Batmobile was a mobile command center that combined technology, weapons and a powerful engine that was years ahead of any other automobile in the world.



Harold Allnut

Not much is known about Harold Allnut, partly due to the fact that he was born mute and preferred to keep to himself. A gifted genius when it came to technology, Batman found Harold living in an unused Wayne Enterprises factory that he had turned into a workshop for his inventions. Impressed by his mechanical and engineering skills, Batman decided to add Harold to his ranks and use his unique set of skills. Soon Batman relocated Harold to the Batcave where he began his new role of updating and maintaining Batman's arsenal for his war on crime.

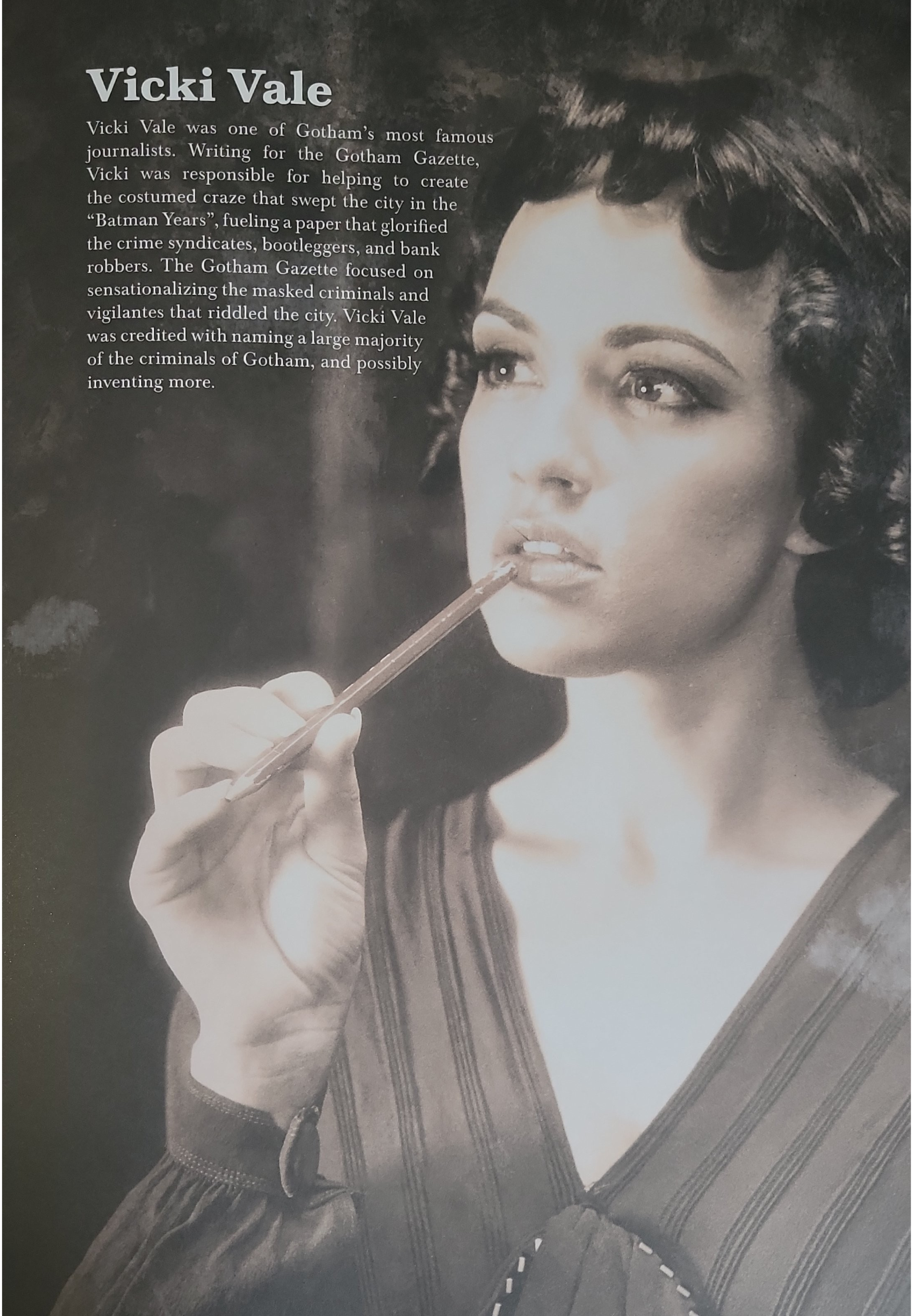


Utility Belt

1. Belt
2. Dusting brush
3. Magnifying Glass
4. Maps
5. Notepad and pencil
6. Mini binoculars
7. Forensic chemicals
8. Lockpicking tools
9. Bandage
10. Forensic Tools
11. Lighter
12. Sewing Kit
13. Food Rations
14. Smoke Pellets
15. Spare CO_2 Cannister
16. Handcuffs and key
17. Small Explosive
18. Razor
19. Hunting Knife
20. Flashlight
21. Medical Supplies

Vicki Vale

Vicki Vale was one of Gotham's most famous journalists. Writing for the Gotham Gazette, Vicki was responsible for helping to create the costumed craze that swept the city in the "Batman Years", fueling a paper that glorified the crime syndicates, bootleggers, and bank robbers. The Gotham Gazette focused on sensationalizing the masked criminals and vigilantes that riddled the city. Vicki Vale was credited with naming a large majority of the criminals of Gotham, and possibly inventing more.



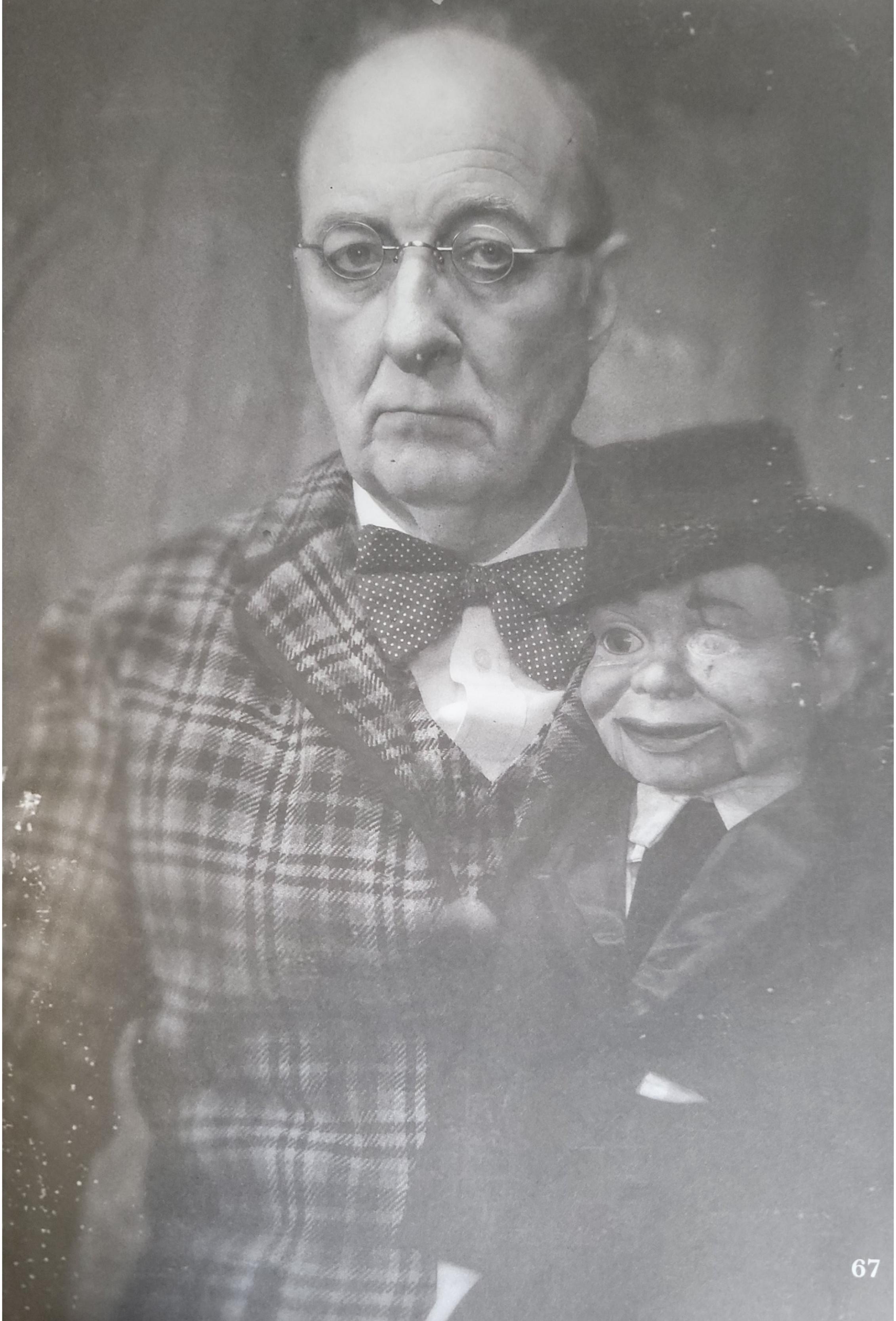
Ventriloquist & Scarface

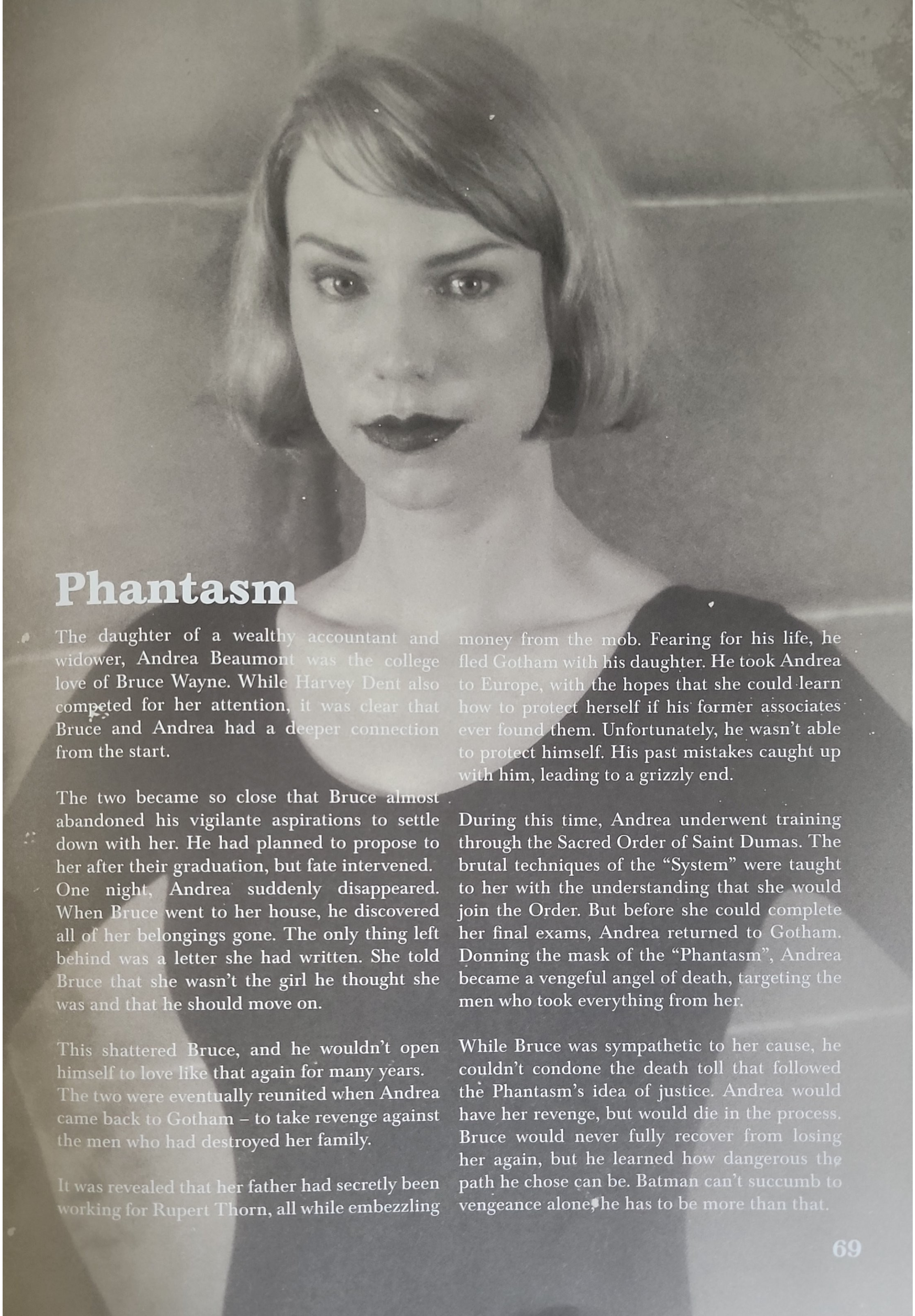
Arnold Wesker was a quiet boy who kept to himself. He was raised by an indifferent mother, a chorus dancer on the vaudeville circuit, who saw her son as a constant reminder that she could never truly reach her dreams. He spent his childhood backstage at low-rent theaters, often creating his own imaginary friends.

While Arnold wished that he could one day show his talent for ventriloquism on stage, that day never came. He lacked his mother's confidence to take the next step. When Arnold was 15, the years of verbal abuse from his mother finally made him snap. The police found Arnold covered in his mother's blood sitting next to her lifeless body. When asked what happened, he said he could not remember, but insisted that, "Scar had done it".

He was incarcerated in Arkham Asylum. Years passed by without incident as Arnold was a model inmate. Occasionally guards reported hearing other voices coming from his cell, but every time someone checked, Arnold was the only one in there.

Upon his release, Arnold finally became a ventriloquist, of a kind. The streets were his stage and the sound of gunfire was his applause. He used a dummy he called "Scarface" to channel his anger, desires, and bloodlust. At first he was considered a joke, but soon no one laughed at the shy man and his dummy. Arnold's meek personality was overrun by his Scarface persona, who took charge and gave the orders. Even by Gotham's standards, this pair became two of the most bizarre mob figures in the country.





Phantasm

The daughter of a wealthy accountant and widower, Andrea Beaumont was the college love of Bruce Wayne. While Harvey Dent also competed for her attention, it was clear that Bruce and Andrea had a deeper connection from the start.

The two became so close that Bruce almost abandoned his vigilante aspirations to settle down with her. He had planned to propose to her after their graduation, but fate intervened. One night, Andrea suddenly disappeared. When Bruce went to her house, he discovered all of her belongings gone. The only thing left behind was a letter she had written. She told Bruce that she wasn't the girl he thought she was and that he should move on.

This shattered Bruce, and he wouldn't open himself to love like that again for many years. The two were eventually reunited when Andrea came back to Gotham – to take revenge against the men who had destroyed her family.

It was revealed that her father had secretly been working for Rupert Thorn, all while embezzling money from the mob. Fearing for his life, he fled Gotham with his daughter. He took Andrea to Europe, with the hopes that she could learn how to protect herself if his former associates ever found them. Unfortunately, he wasn't able to protect himself. His past mistakes caught up with him, leading to a grizzly end.

During this time, Andrea underwent training through the Sacred Order of Saint Dumas. The brutal techniques of the "System" were taught to her with the understanding that she would join the Order. But before she could complete her final exams, Andrea returned to Gotham. Donning the mask of the "Phantasm", Andrea became a vengeful angel of death, targeting the men who took everything from her.

While Bruce was sympathetic to her cause, he couldn't condone the death toll that followed the Phantasm's idea of justice. Andrea would have her revenge, but would die in the process. Bruce would never fully recover from losing her again, but he learned how dangerous the path he chose can be. Batman can't succumb to vengeance alone, he has to be more than that.

Cat Woman

Selina Kyle was inspired by the Batman, and would model her new alter ego on the masked figure. However, that is where the similarities between the two end. Instead of a "flying rodent", as she often referred to him, she chose the cat as her totem. Feline attributes suited her well. Cat Woman did not care about stopping crime, she was in it for one thing: freedom. And it was the kind of freedom only money can buy.

Selina became the greatest cat burglar in the country, traveling the globe and getting rich in the process. No matter where she went abroad, her favorite place to apply her craft was Gotham. Not because the city had anything unique to steal, but because it had one adversary you couldn't get anywhere else: Batman. There were some things money just couldn't buy, like a good challenge.

ABOVE: A collection of Cat Woman's confiscated whips.

Arkham Asylum

If Gotham City was the mother that bore Batman's insane Rogue's Gallery, then the Arkham Asylum for the Criminally Insane was certainly its womb. Taking its name from the man that brought it into existence, Jeremiah Arkham, a man who lived in fear that his fate was already decided, and that he would lose his mind like so many in his family. Wanting to remain the master of his own destiny, Jeremiah would later commit suicide before his mind started to decline.

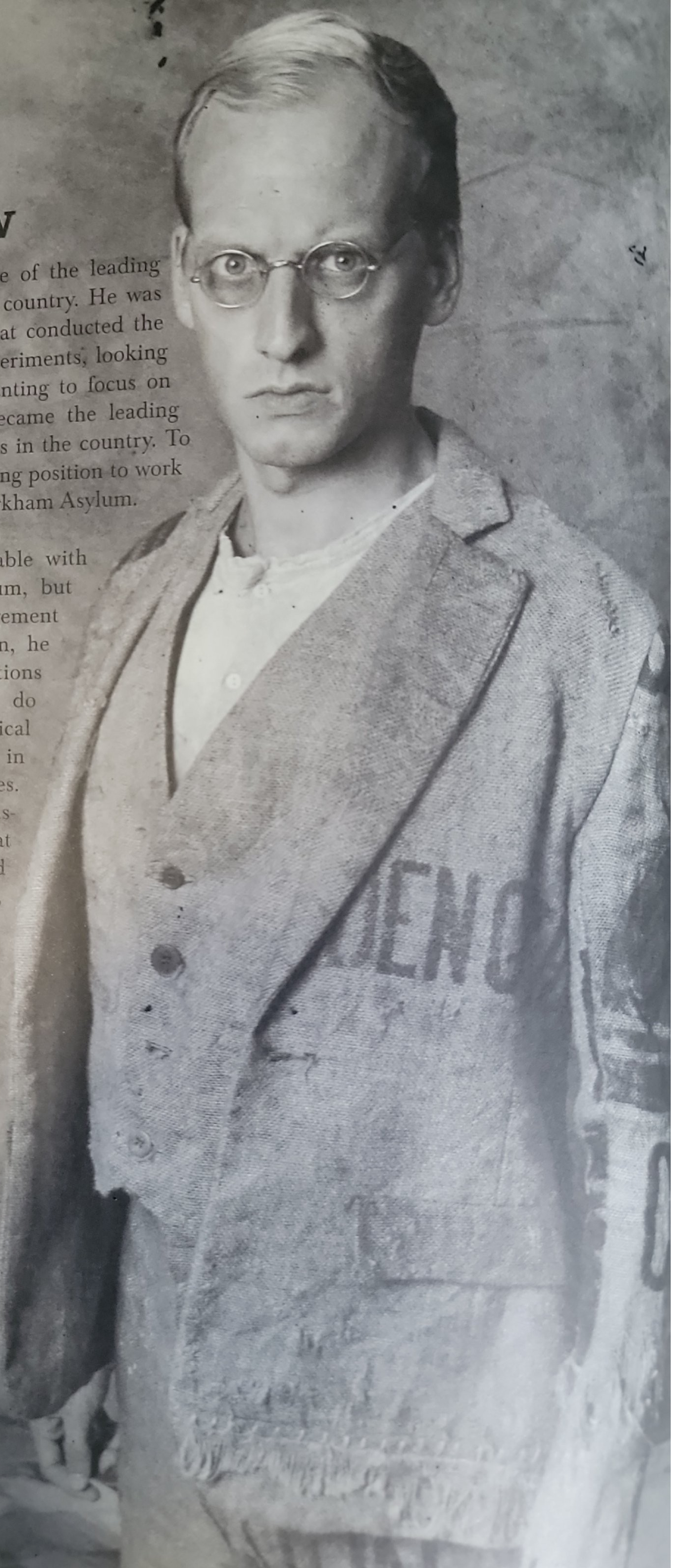
The Arkham family's fortune and estate were left to the city to create a brand new facility and to become a leading example of a modern approach to medicine. But what was meant to be a beacon of hope for the unfortunate soon became a house of torment. Under the leadership of the sadistic warden, Dr. Hugo Strange, Arkham housed infamous guests such as the Joker, Harvey Dent (Two-Face) and the Ventriloquist.

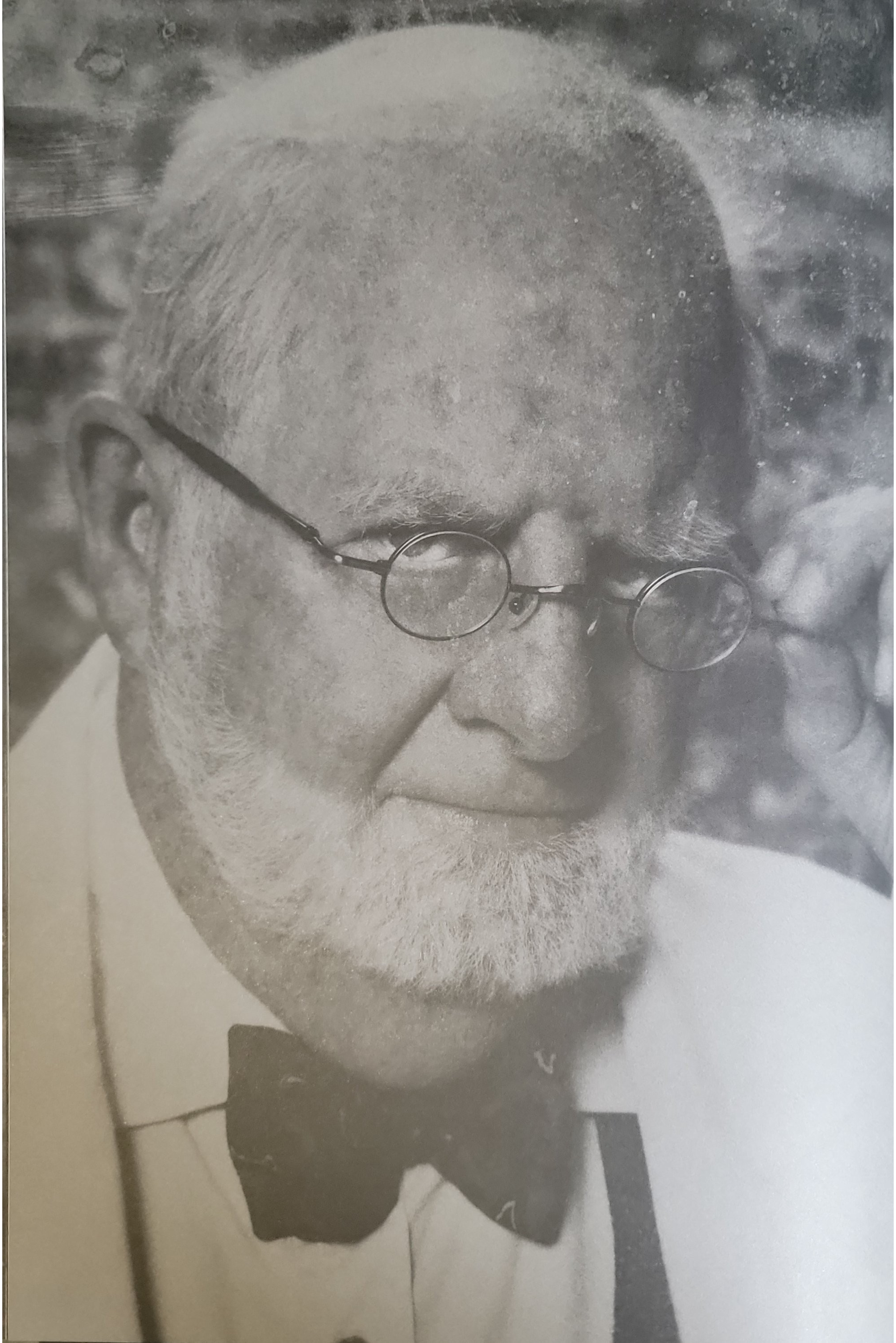
This was not a place the mentally ill went to get better, with many inmates confined to Arkham coming out worse than when they went in. Even its own employees couldn't escape the "Arkham Curse", with the likes of Jonathan Crane (Scarecrow) and Harleen Quinzel (Harley Quinn) eventually becoming inmates themselves. The horrors that happened behind those walls became the subject of rumor and now live on as whispered ghost stories.

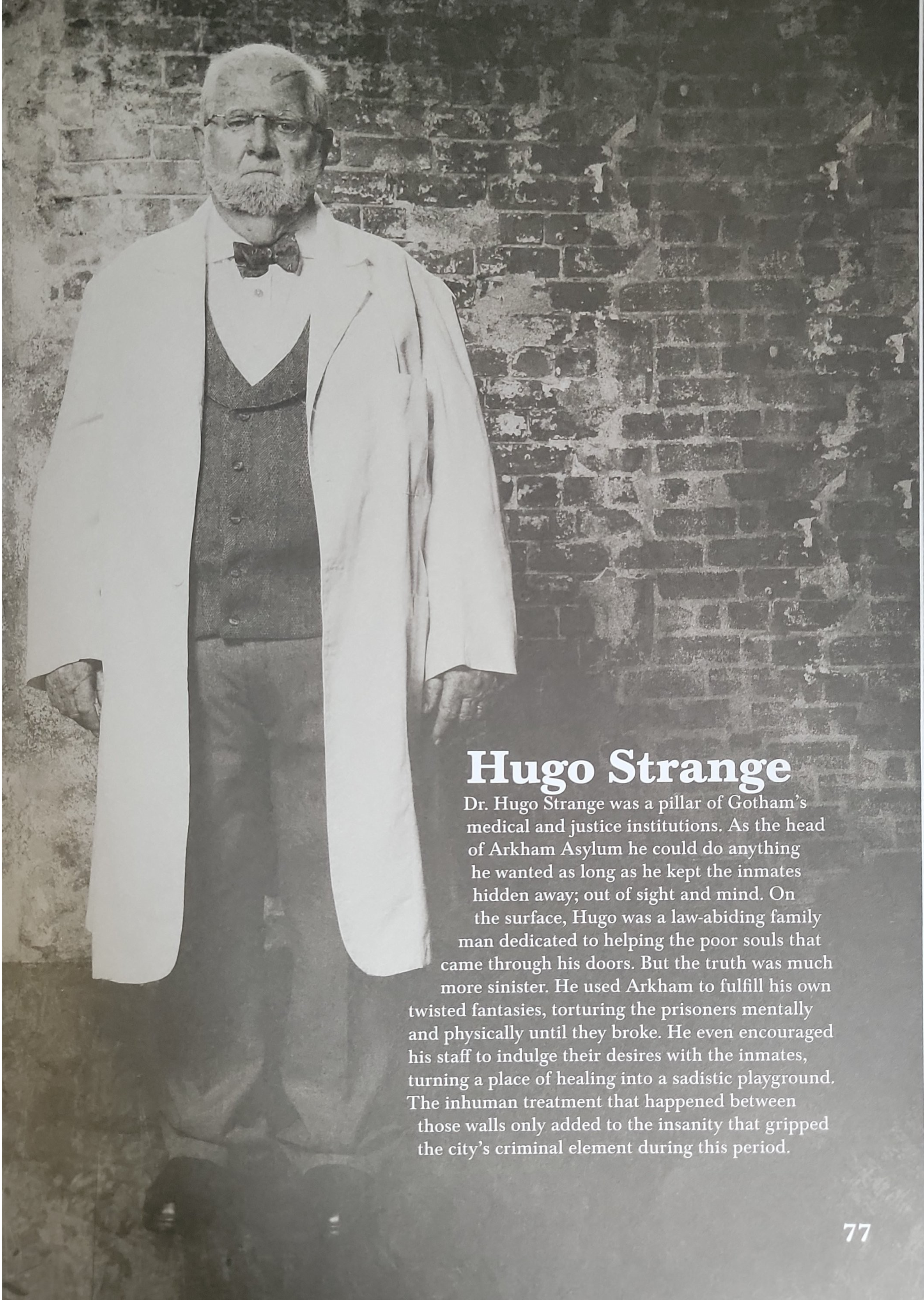
Scarecrow

Dr. Jonathan Crane was one of the leading figures in psychology in the country. He was part of the research team that conducted the infamous "Little Albert" experiments, looking into the concept of fear. Wanting to focus on fear-based psychology, he became the leading intellectual source on phobias in the country. To achieve this, he left his teaching position to work under Dr. Hugo Strange at Arkham Asylum.

At first, he felt uncomfortable with the conditions of the asylum, but soon, with the encouragement and guidance of his warden, he realized the unique conditions gave him the freedom to do some of the most unethical experiments ever conducted in the history of the United States. He managed to develop a gas-based psychoactive drug that enhanced people's fear and paranoia. Soon, however, the patients weren't enough for Crane. He became fascinated by the reports of the Batman, who would strike fear into the city's criminal element, deterring them from further activities. Crane started using his nights to further his research beyond the walls of Arkham, attacking the innocent citizens of Gotham and creating his own alter ego, the "Scarecrow".





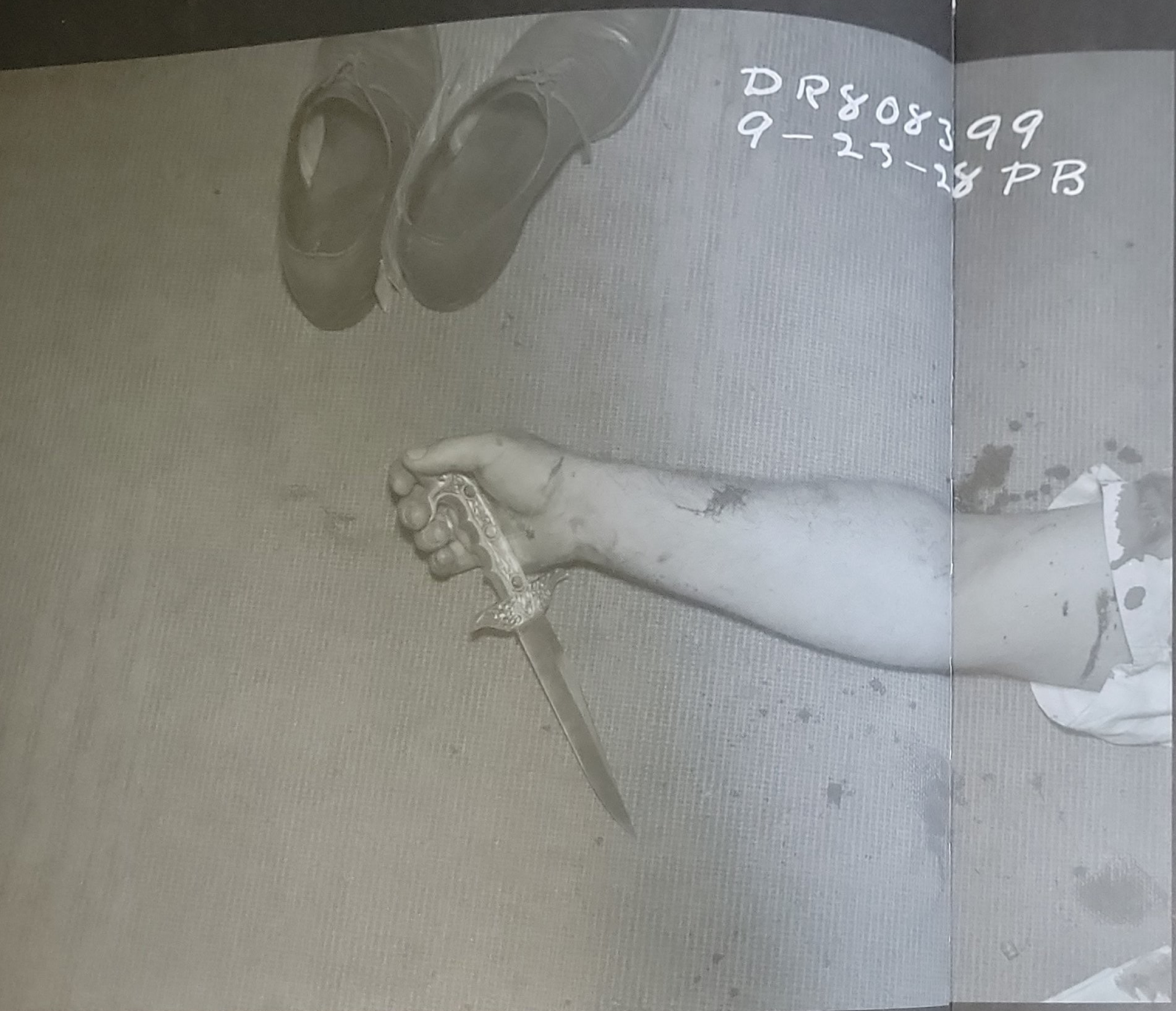


Hugo Strange

Dr. Hugo Strange was a pillar of Gotham's medical and justice institutions. As the head of Arkham Asylum he could do anything he wanted as long as he kept the inmates hidden away; out of sight and mind. On the surface, Hugo was a law-abiding family man dedicated to helping the poor souls that came through his doors. But the truth was much more sinister. He used Arkham to fulfill his own twisted fantasies, torturing the prisoners mentally and physically until they broke. He even encouraged his staff to indulge their desires with the inmates, turning a place of healing into a sadistic playground. The inhuman treatment that happened between those walls only added to the insanity that gripped the city's criminal element during this period.

Batgirl

Barbara Gordon was one of the first Batman admirers to don a mask of her own. Daughter of Gotham City Police Department's most untouchable cop, Jim Gordon, crime-fighting was in her blood. She created her own costume, though some would say with more of a focus on fashion than function. Even if she could not wield the tool of fear as Batman did, Batgirl had her own arsenal of skills that she used in fighting crime. Eventually, even Batman found her abilities useful and officially brought her on to the Bat-Team. Unfortunately, Batgirl's career was cut short by the Joker.



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9-23-28 PB

1925 - 1928

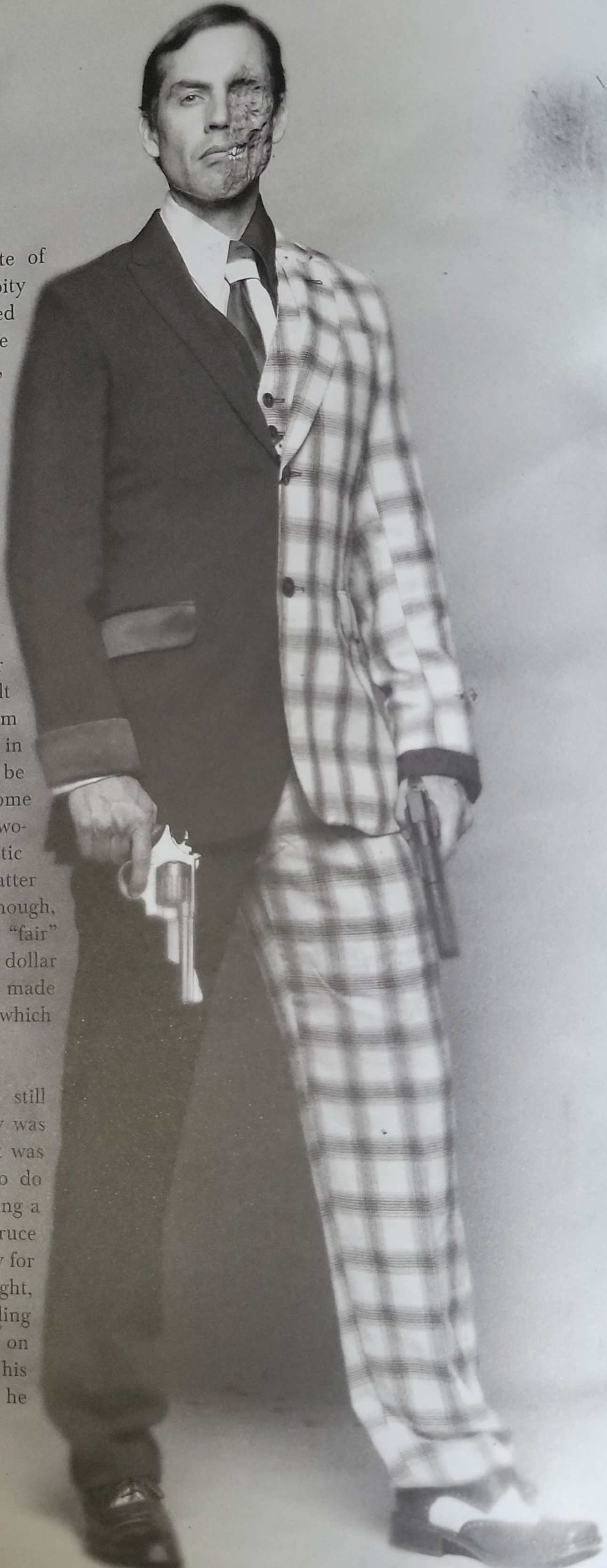
The Dark Years

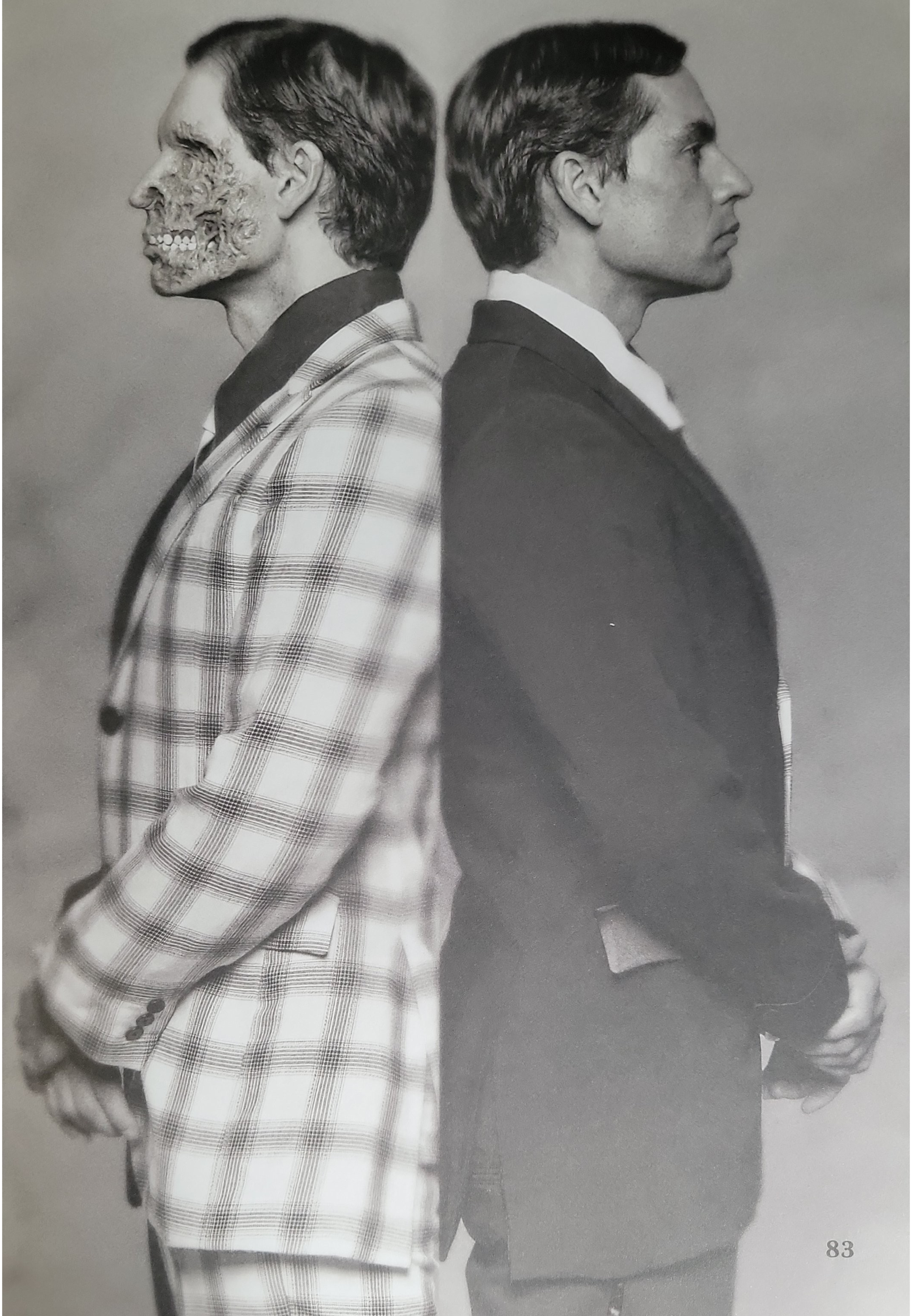
Two-Face

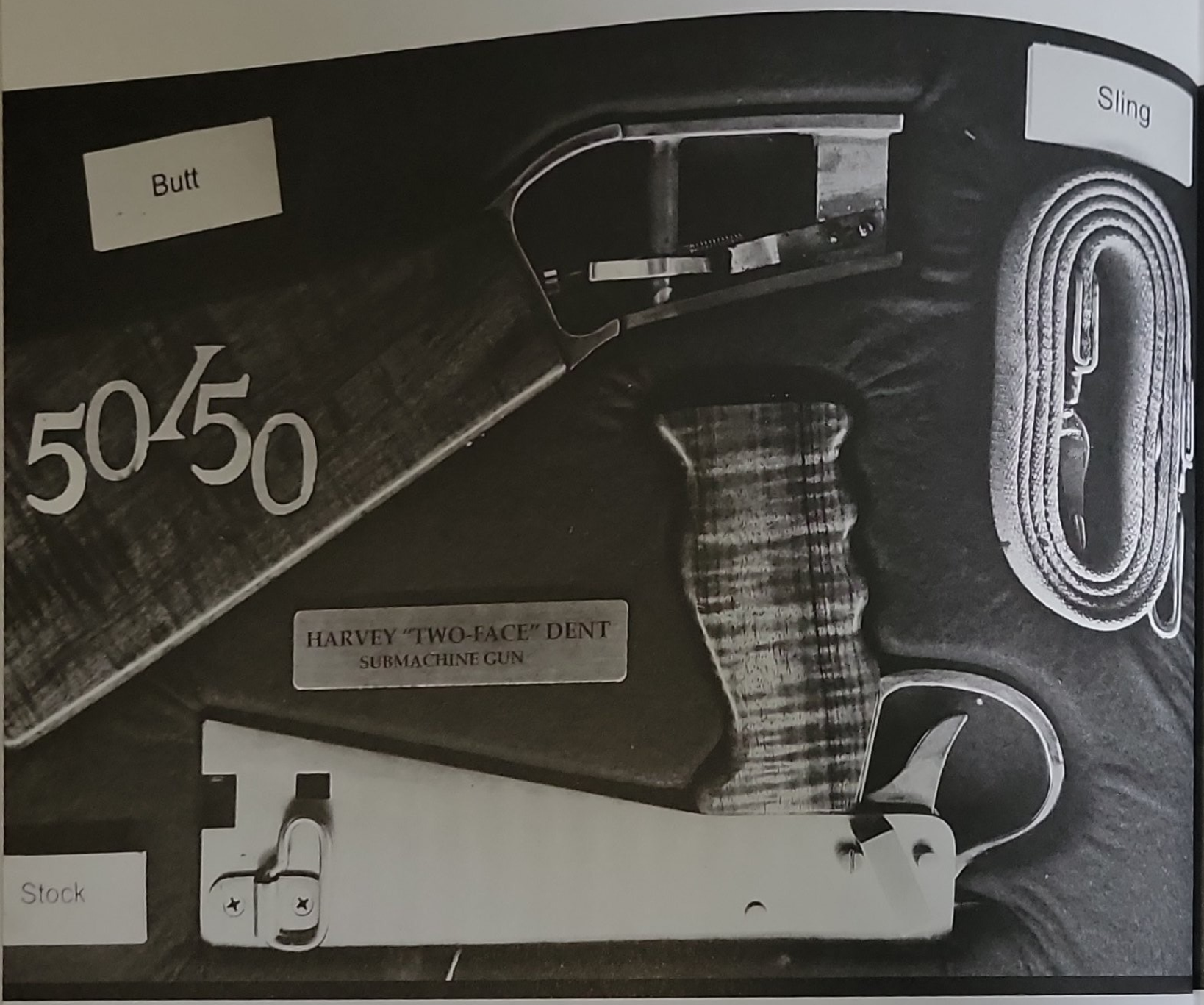
After years of being in a state of depression, Harvey Dent's self-pity was replaced by a burning hatred for the world around him. In the blink of an eye he would snap, almost as if he was another person. In later years he would be posthumously diagnosed with Dissociative Identity Disorder. Harvey always had a dark side that he fought with, even before the war. But he had refused to let the violence consume him like it had his father.

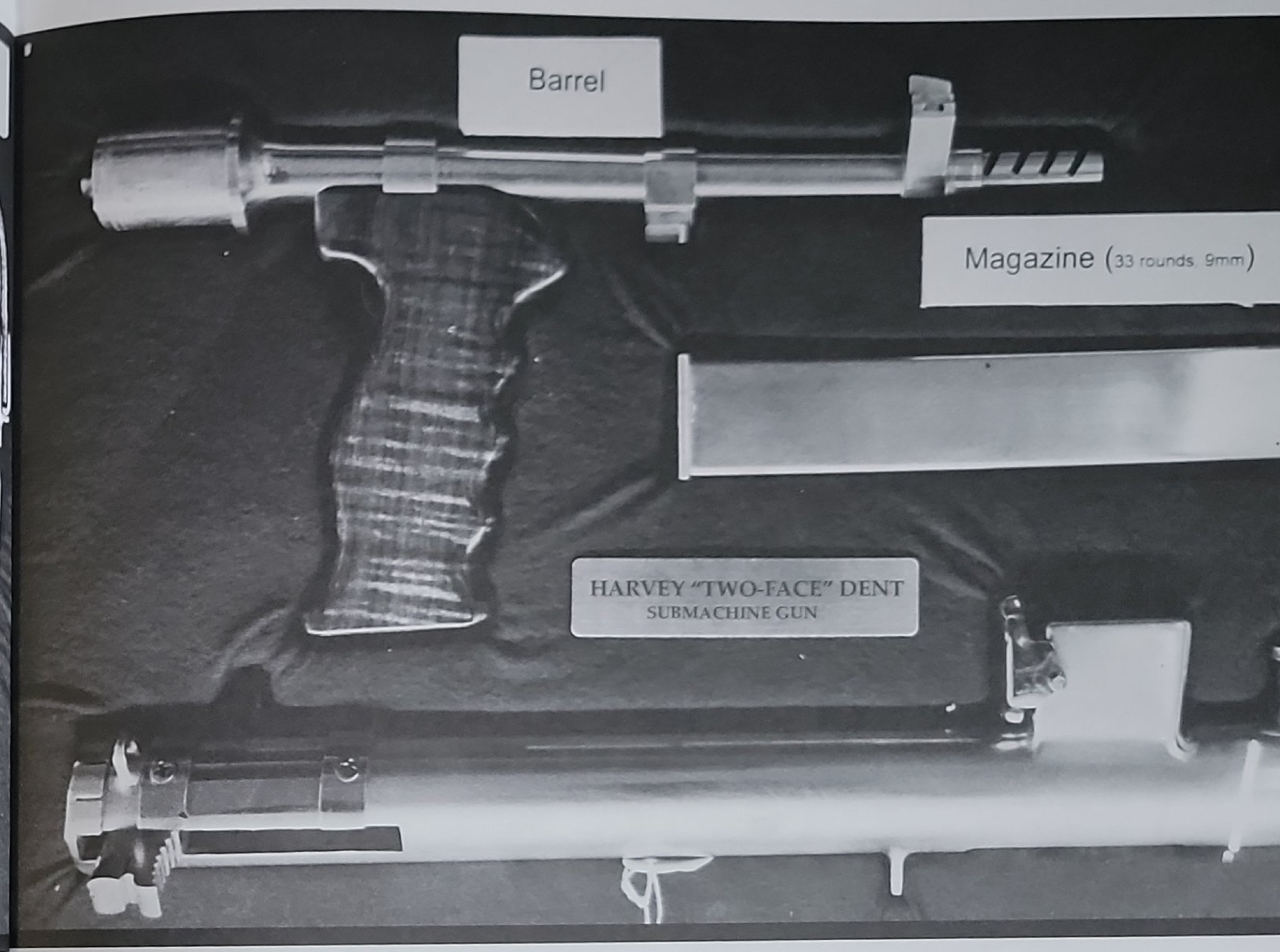
When he returned from the war with his disfigurement, anger built until it filled every ounce of him and a second identity manifested in Harvey. This personality would be known as "Two-Face" and become the dominant consciousness. Two-Face was one of the most sadistic gangsters in the country. No matter how vicious he could be though, everyone always received a "fair" chance. He would flip a silver dollar coin to make his decisions. This made him extremely unpredictable, which added to his legend.

Bruce believed his friend was still in there somewhere. His theory was when Two-Face used the coin it was really Harvey fighting to try to do the right thing, by at least offering a 50/50 chance. Many close to Bruce thought he was looking for a way for Harvey to be saved. In hindsight, it was obvious that he was dealing with the guilt that he focused on being Batman while neglecting his friendship with Harvey when he was needed the most.






Butt
Sling
50/50
HARVEY "TWO-FACE" DENT
SUBMACHINE GUN
Stock


Barrel
Magazine (33 rounds, 9mm)
HARVEY "TWO-FACE" DENT
SUBMACHINE GUN

Julie Maddison

Julie Maddison was a casual romantic interest of Bruce Wayne. While she was born into money, Julie was bored by it. She would spend her time on Arkham Asylum's board of directors, raising funds for the facility.

While Bruce wasn't her type, she began dating him because she believed that there was maybe something more beyond the rich playboy image. Ironically, she often fantasized about Batman. However, she would never find out the truth as the romance soon came to an end.

Unbeknownst to Julie, Bruce had only started seeing her to learn more about Akrham's warden, Hugo Strange. He did eventually develop feelings for her, but they weren't quite strong enough for him to abandon his mission.

Lady Shiva

San-ra Wu-San was the birth name of Lady Shiva. She was born in a small village in rural China with her sister Kar-lyn. Both sisters were trained in a unique martial art that predicted body movement. Kar-lyn wanted to be the greatest martial arts grandmaster in the world. San-ra was superior in skill, but this went unnoticed as she would often hold back in their training. San-ra held a great love for her sister, and did not want to overshadow her dreams.

David Cain, a high-ranking agent for The League Of Assassins, scouted San-ra to be a potential member of the League, but later realized that Kar-lyn was her biggest weakness. Cain killed Kar-lyn, knowing that this would give San-ra drive and focus. Cain was right; the desire for vengeance she felt took her skill level to new heights. Soon Cain would leave The League and take on San-ra as his student and lover. Realizing that her sister's dream had now become her own, she was going to use David Cain to become the greatest martial artist in the world.

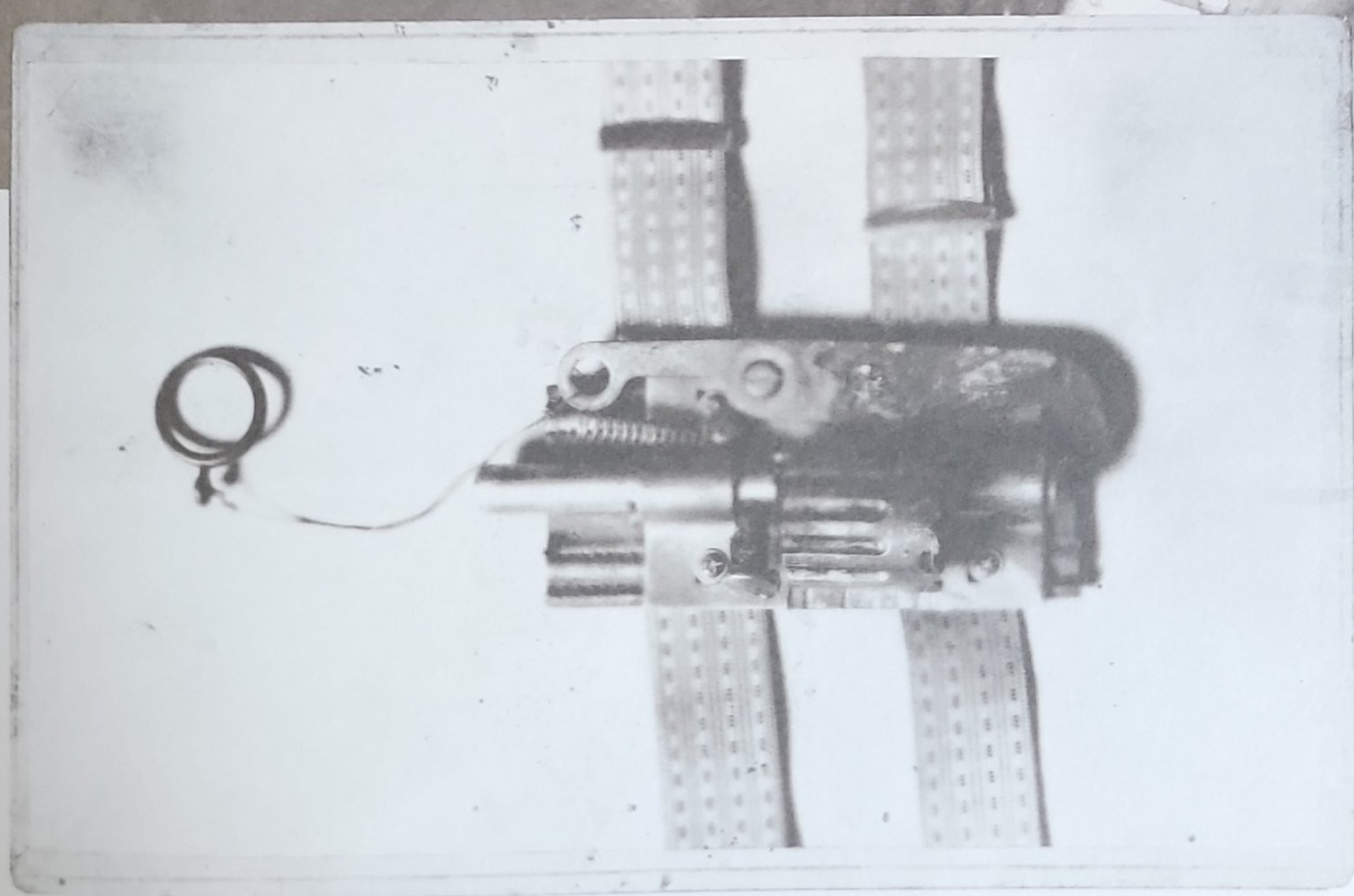
Within a few years she had become just that. A master martial artist and assassin. She fell pregnant with Cain's child, but the baby died during childbirth. Shiva saw this as a sign that it was time to move on. She left Cain in the middle of the night and traveled to America.

Upon arriving in the USA, now free from Cain's influence and manipulation. She adopted the new name, Lady Shiva. From there, she took over the very profitable Gotham opium empire, which filtered through the Gotham docks. Utilizing her deadly skills and training, it wasn't long until she had brought all of Chinatown under her control.

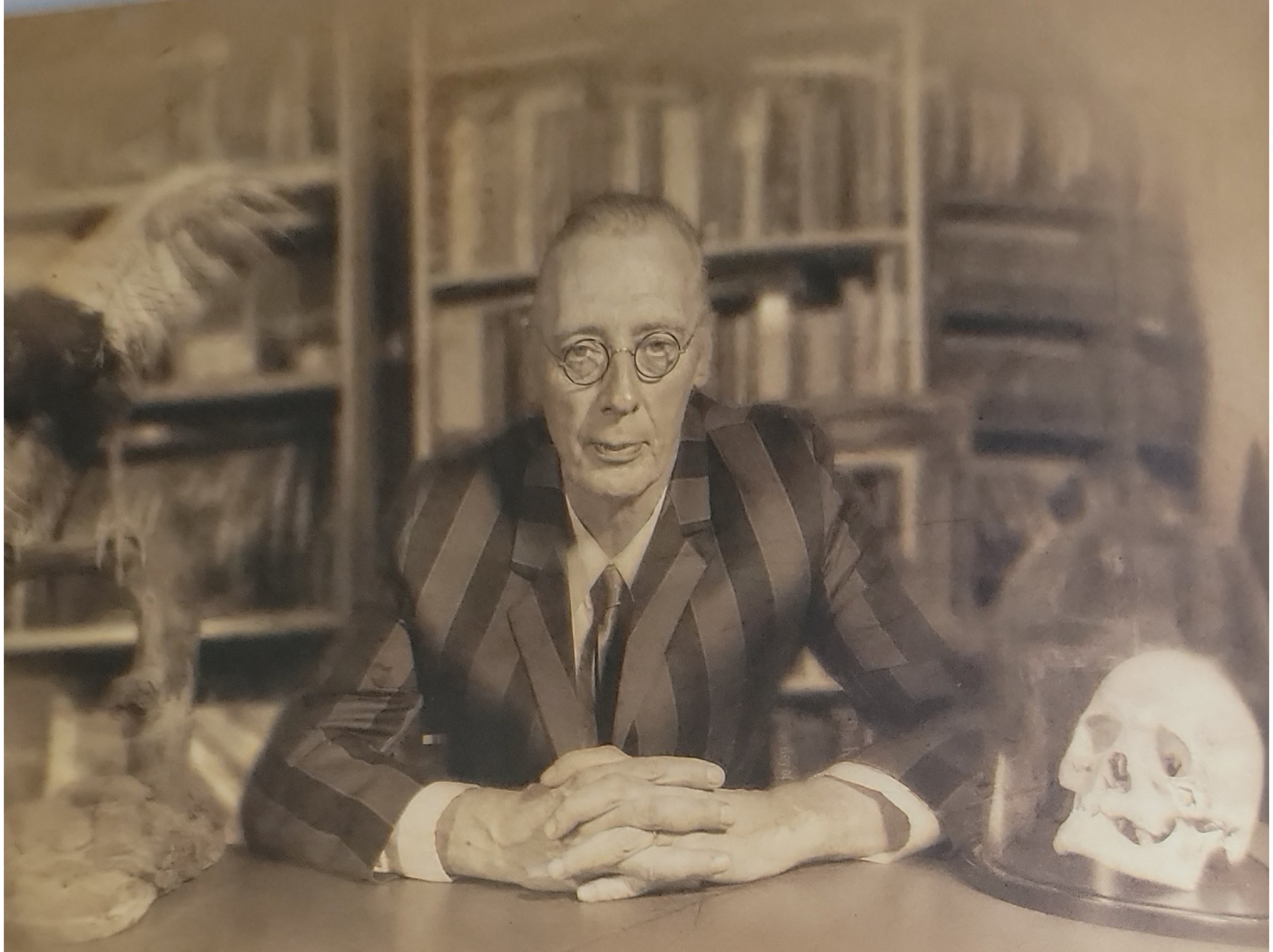
Deadshot

Floyd Lawton (real name Farran Lawerenz) was born to an important family in a small German town. A lot was expected of him as the eldest son. Never quite living up to his father's expectations, his only true friend was his younger brother Edward. One day, fed up with his father's constant abuse, he decided to kill him. He climbed a tree and attempted to shoot him through the window of their house. He missed and killed his younger brother instead.

Floyd ran away from home and joined the newly formed German army. He promised himself that he would never miss another shot. He kept his promise and became a sniper during the Great War. When the fighting was done, he sold his skills as a marksman. Calling himself "Deadshot", he traveled the world taking out high-profile targets. His most challenging contract was when the gangsters of Gotham pooled their money in a desperate attempt to bring in an outside professional to help them dispose of their bat problem.



LEFT: A concealed wrist revolver with string-loaded pull trigger.



Riddler

Edward Nygma was obsessed with riddles and puzzles; he saw them as a fun way to show off his intellectual superiority to people he considered beneath him. While at college studying law, he developed a new obsession: committing the perfect crime and getting away with it. He killed a fellow student at his school and managed to frame an innocent man for the murder.

Years passed, and Edward had become a successful lawyer but was bored with his dull life. Often reflecting on his one perfect crime, he relished the pride and excitement he felt at being great at something. He began to kill again, each murder getting more ambitious as he toyed with the police. By the time he had killed a total of 16 people, the police still had no idea who was behind the murders. Edward's biggest weakness was his hubris; he started leaving riddles about his identity and information on who his next victim would be. This earned him the name of the "Riddler", which was given to him by the press. It wasn't until Batman started to decipher his riddles that he met his match, and was sentenced to life in prison at Black Gate Penitentiary.

?

Give me food, and I will live;
give me water, and I will die.
What am I?

THE RIDDLER

?

Some try to hide, some try to cheat, but time
will show, we always will meet. Try as you
might, to guess my name, I promise you'll know,
when you I do claim

THE RIDDLER

?

What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment,
but never in a thousand years?

THE RIDDLER

?

What do liars do after death?

THE RIDDLER

?

What has a head, a tail is brown, and has
no legs?

THE RIDDLER

?

A woman proves in court that her husband was
murdered by her sister, but the judge decides
that the sister cannot be punished. Why?

THE RIDDLER

?

What 6 letter word can have a letter taken
away and it still makes a word. Take another
letter away and it still makes a word. Keep on
doing that until you have one letter left.
What is the word?

THE RIDDLER

?

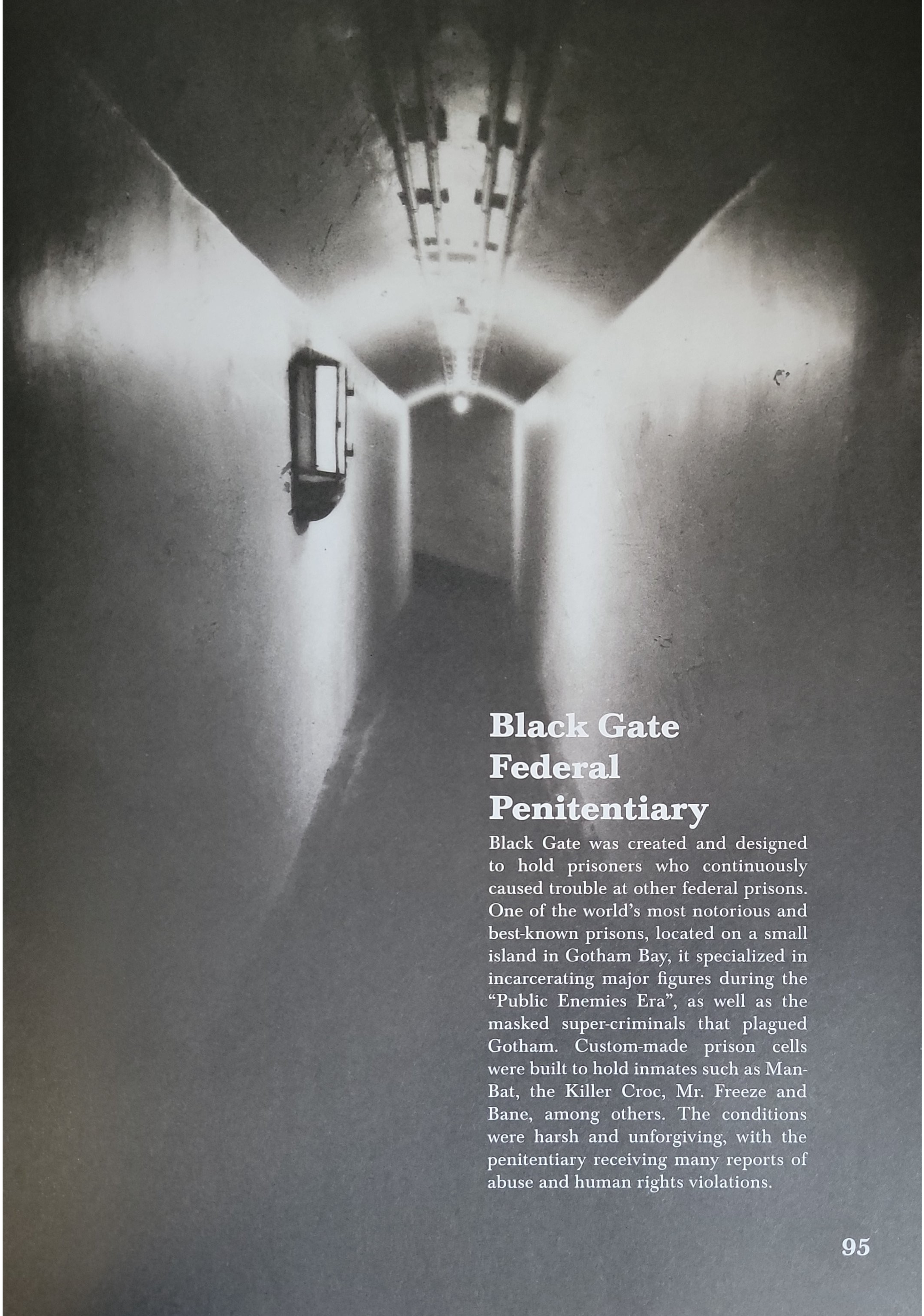
I bring death with a mighty bl
nations with a mighty nole. Many p
die. Many people will cry. A battle is
least. In the end I can bring peace. What am

THE RIDDLER

?

Alive without breath, As cold as death; Never
thirsty, ever drinking, All in mail never
clinking.

THE RIDDLER



Black Gate Federal Penitentiary

Black Gate was created and designed to hold prisoners who continuously caused trouble at other federal prisons. One of the world's most notorious and best-known prisons, located on a small island in Gotham Bay, it specialized in incarcerating major figures during the "Public Enemies Era", as well as the masked super-criminals that plagued Gotham. Custom-made prison cells were built to hold inmates such as Man-Bat, the Killer Croc, Mr. Freeze and Bane, among others. The conditions were harsh and unforgiving, with the penitentiary receiving many reports of abuse and human rights violations.

Talia al Ghul

تاليا الغول

Talia al Ghul was the second daughter of one of the most powerful and dangerous men in the world, Ra's al Ghul. When he forbade her to visit Gotham City, Talia disobeyed his orders so that she could see the man she loved, Bruce Wayne. He was the only person that Talia considered her equal. She first came into contact with Bruce when he trained with the League Of Assassins during the Great War, and saw a strength and intelligence in him that she had only ever seen in one other man – her father.

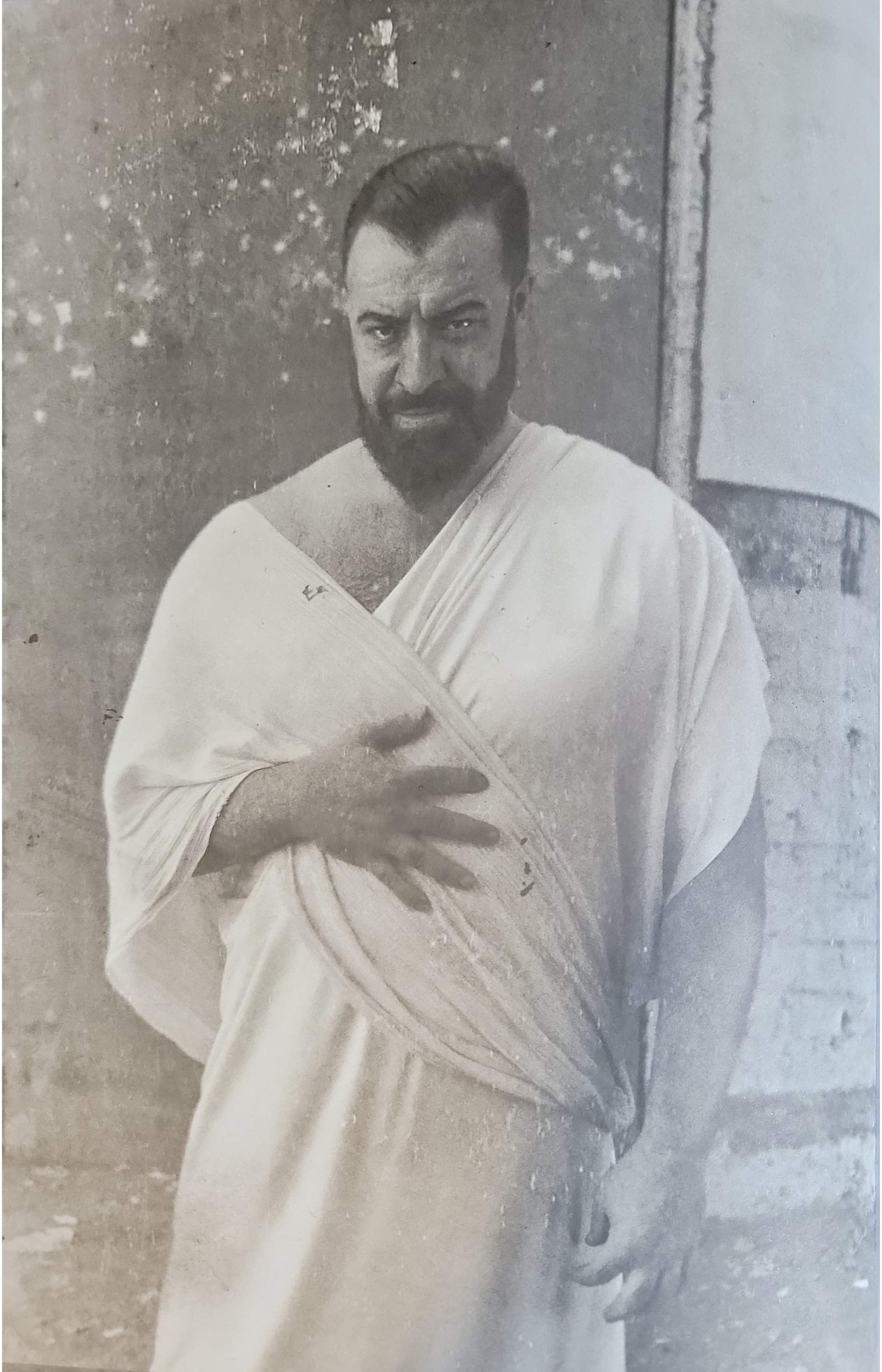
At first, she became jealous that her father saw Bruce as the son he never had. But over time she realized the strength that she admired so much had more in common with her own. Soon the jealousy turned into infatuation. Her feelings didn't go unnoticed, and Bruce was equally fascinated by her. A passionate affair was inevitable.

They were young and in love, until the day Bruce left without so much as a goodbye, leaving nothing but a backpack with a few scattered possessions. Years later Talia travelled to Gotham to find out why he had left her. Even though Bruce had strong feelings for Talia, he could not join the League as her father had wished, and felt his destiny couldn't include her. Talia left Gotham heartbroken, but not before sharing one last night together.

O-Sensei
يا سنسي

One of Batman's teachers during his missing years, O-Sensei taught Bruce the secrets of the shadows. He turned assassination into an art form. Second only to Ra's himself in the League of Assassins, O-Sensei was once their top warrior. He was later responsible for training the League's newest members and taught some of the most deadly fighters in the world – Batman, Bronze Tiger and Richard Dragon were some of his students.

O-Sensei came to Gotham to bring back Talia to her father, but he recognized Bruce as Batman immediately through his fighting signature. He would take this information back to Ra's al Ghul and would play a vital role in the years to come, turning Gotham into a war zone.



Maxie Zeus

Maxie Zeus was the leader of the "New Olympia" movement. A con man in his earlier years, upon arriving in Gotham he reinvented himself as a spiritual health leader. He became a lifestyle coach that preached the values of ancient Greece, writing multiple books about the benefits of living an ancient lifestyle, but through a modern lens.

His popularity grew among the progressive-minded, who flocked to his movement and supported him financially. Zeus would double down on his illusions of grandeur and theatrics, becoming a cult leader in the process. He eventually started to believe he was a living god.

It was later revealed that Zeus was a serial rapist. He used his celebrity and status to lure women in close to him, taking advantage of their trust so he could sexually abuse and exploit them.

Many women never spoke out about what Zeus had done to them, and those who did weren't believed. It wasn't until Julie Maddison became a victim that Bruce began looking into the New Olympia movement. It's believed he raped close to eighty women before the Dark Knight finally exposed the predator and brought him to justice.

Bruce would see this as one of the greatest failures of his crime-fighting career. He'd live with the constant regret of not stopping Zeus sooner.

ABOVE: Members of the "New Olympia" movement at the height of its popularity.

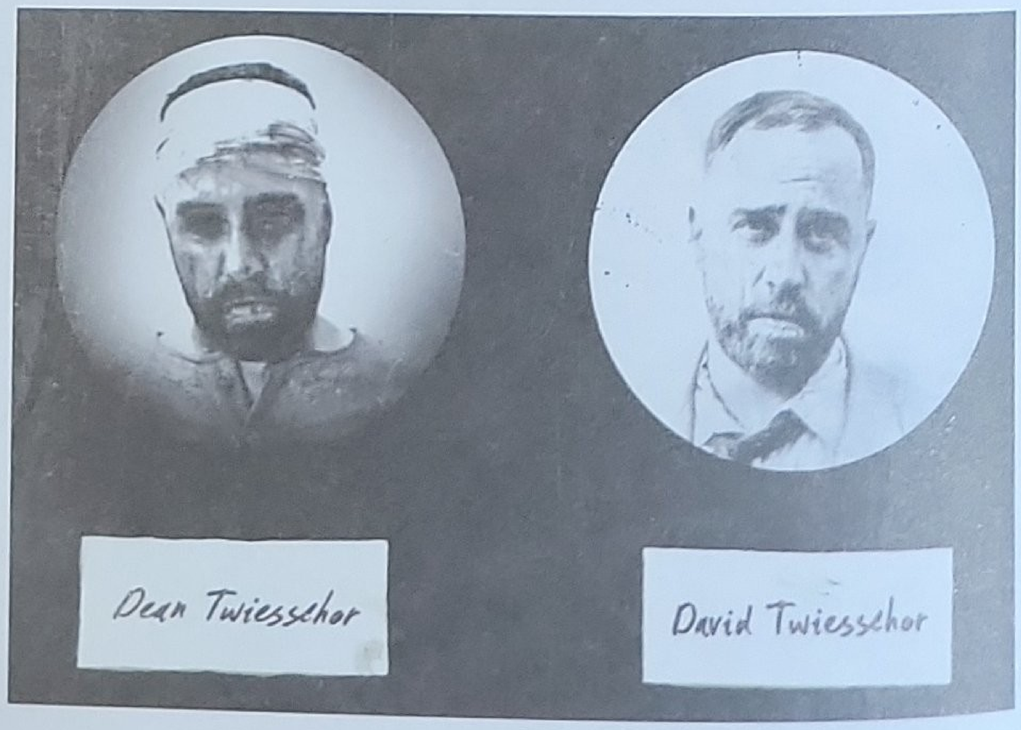
Mad Hatter

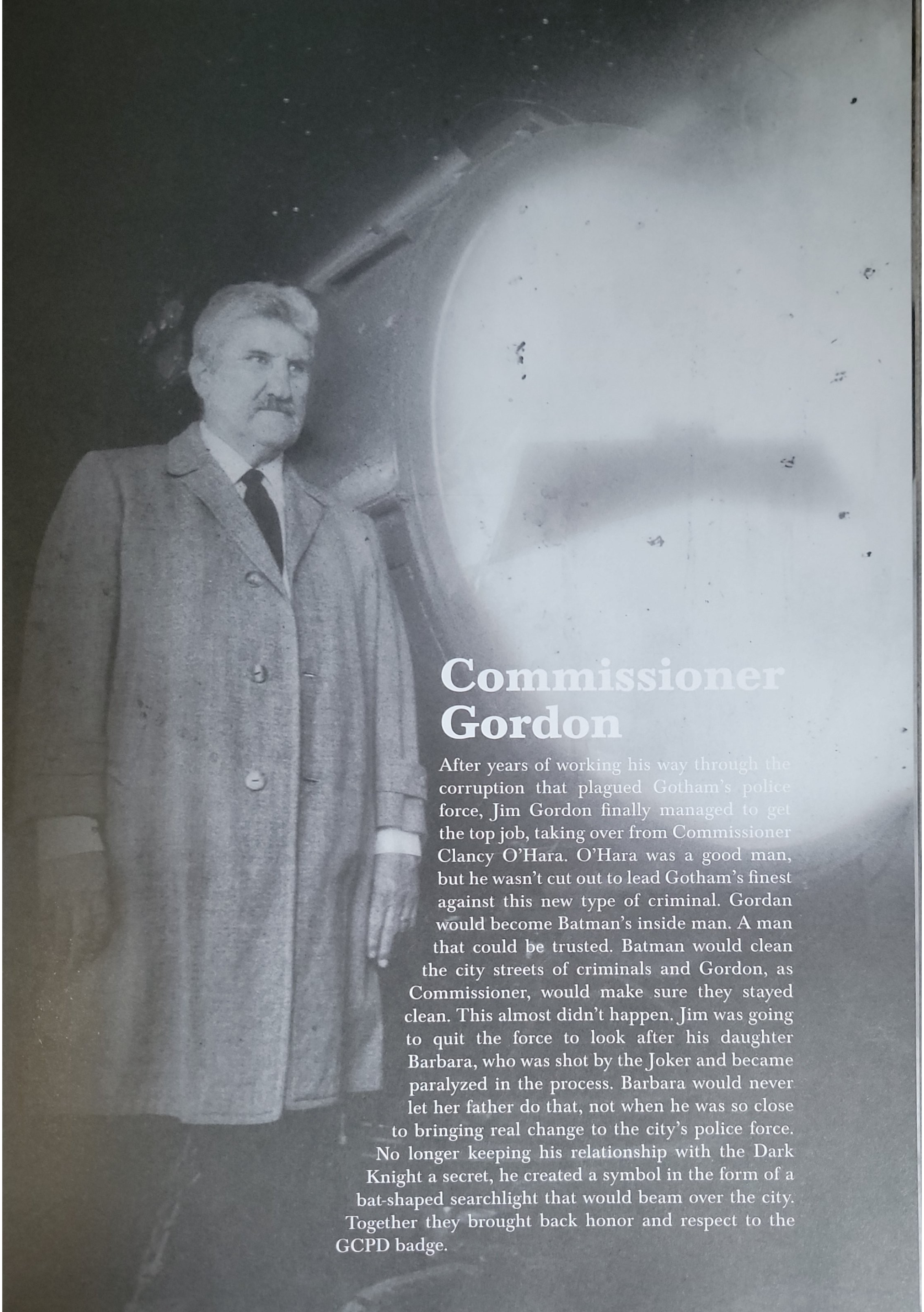
Even Gotham's criminals had a class system. At the top, you'll find the gangsters with huge houses and flashy cars. At the bottom, you would find the Mad Hatter living in abandoned buildings, and wearing worn-in and ripped clothes.

Jervis Tetch ran the pickpockets and child thieves of Gotham. He would find young runaway street children and start his brainwashing process, making them dependent on him. His vast network of children made him more powerful than many people ever gave him credit for. He was nicknamed the "Mad Hatter" because of his resemblance to the character from the popular book by Lewis Carroll. Every time Batman would put a stop to his activities, it wouldn't be long before he would be back to his old ways. After all, there was no shortage of homeless and orphaned children on the streets of Gotham. This went on for years. Jervis had a good racket for some time, until two members of his own gang grew up and took over.

Tweedledum & Tweedledee

David and Deen Twiesschor were twin brothers who worked for the Mad Hatter as young boys. They weren't the best thieves or pickpockets, but he used them as his enforcers to manage the other children. This type of work suited their thuggish nature. They earned the names "Tweedledum" and "Tweedledee" from the other children, but by all accounts they hated being addressed as such. Doing so was done at one's own peril. As they grew older, they started making plans to expand their career options. They'd eventually take over the Mad Hatter's rackets, putting him in the morgue in the process. The brothers became muscle for hire for Gotham's bigger gangs, eventually becoming the main henchmen for Two-Face's outfit.





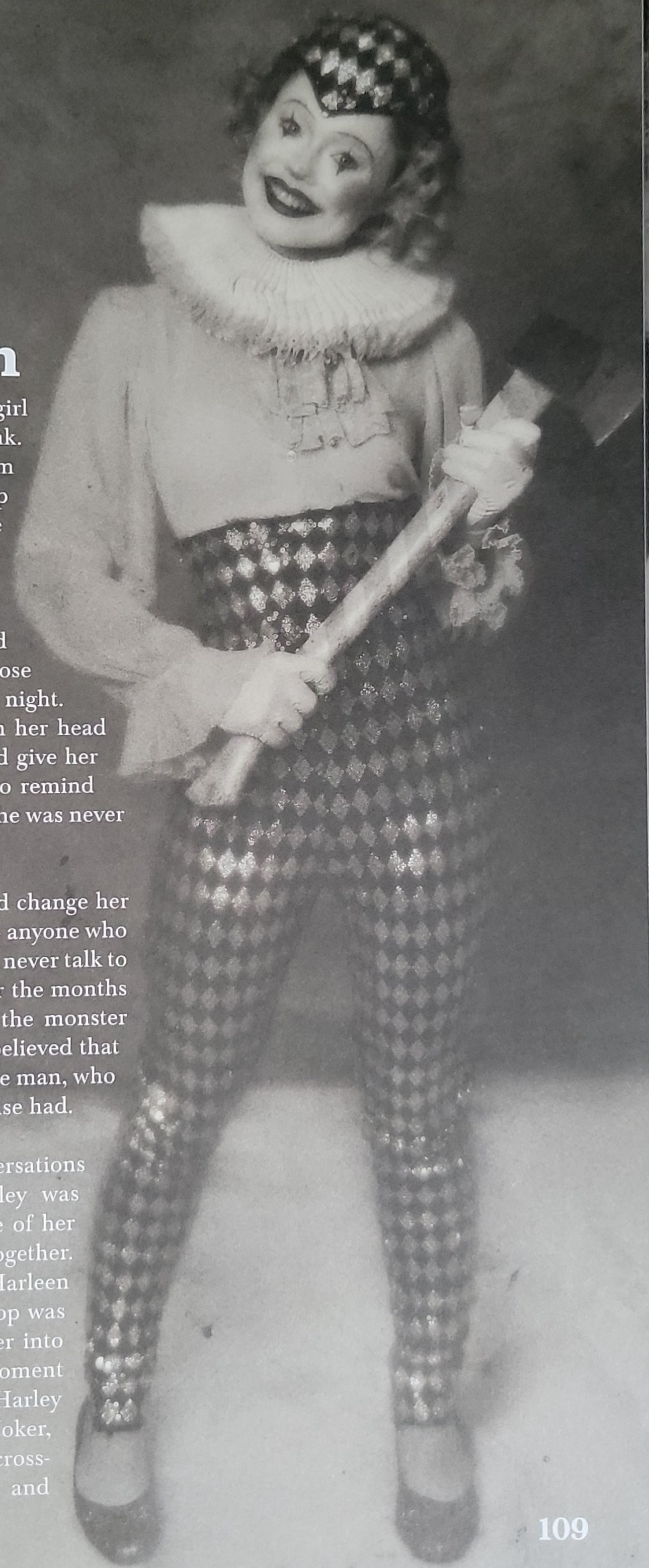
Commissioner Gordon

After years of working his way through the corruption that plagued Gotham's police force, Jim Gordon finally managed to get the top job, taking over from Commissioner Clancy O'Hara. O'Hara was a good man, but he wasn't cut out to lead Gotham's finest against this new type of criminal. Gordan would become Batman's inside man. A man that could be trusted. Batman would clean the city streets of criminals and Gordon, as Commissioner, would make sure they stayed clean. This almost didn't happen. Jim was going to quit the force to look after his daughter Barbara, who was shot by the Joker and became paralyzed in the process. Barbara would never let her father do that, not when he was so close to bringing real change to the city's police force. No longer keeping his relationship with the Dark Knight a secret, he created a symbol in the form of a bat-shaped searchlight that would beam over the city. Together they brought back honor and respect to the GCPD badge.

R

Robin II
Jason Todd

The second person to take on the mantle of Robin was Jason Todd. The opposite to Dick in many ways, he was raised on the streets and fell into the service of the Mad Hatter, becoming one of his best thieves. When Bruce came across Jason breaking into the Batmobile, he was immediately taken by the boy's fearless attitude. Jason would later help Bruce take down the Mad Hatter's child exploitation ring. Bruce saw the anger and frustration in Jason and thought that becoming the next Robin might help him better focus his emotions, as it had done with Dick. Jason's years as Robin were filled with trouble, as he was prone to using excessive force and questionable judgment. He would prove to be the most turbulent Robin of all.

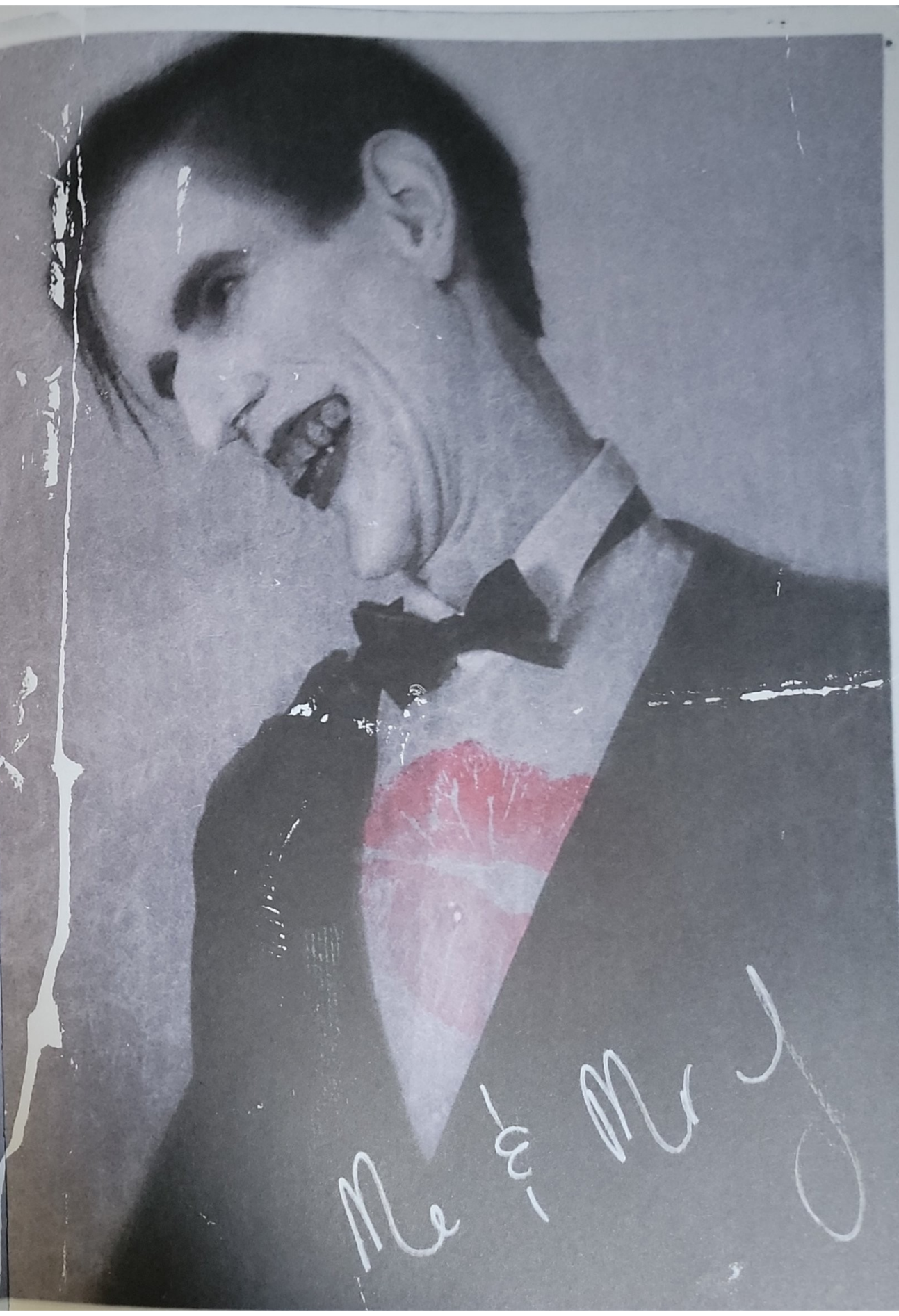


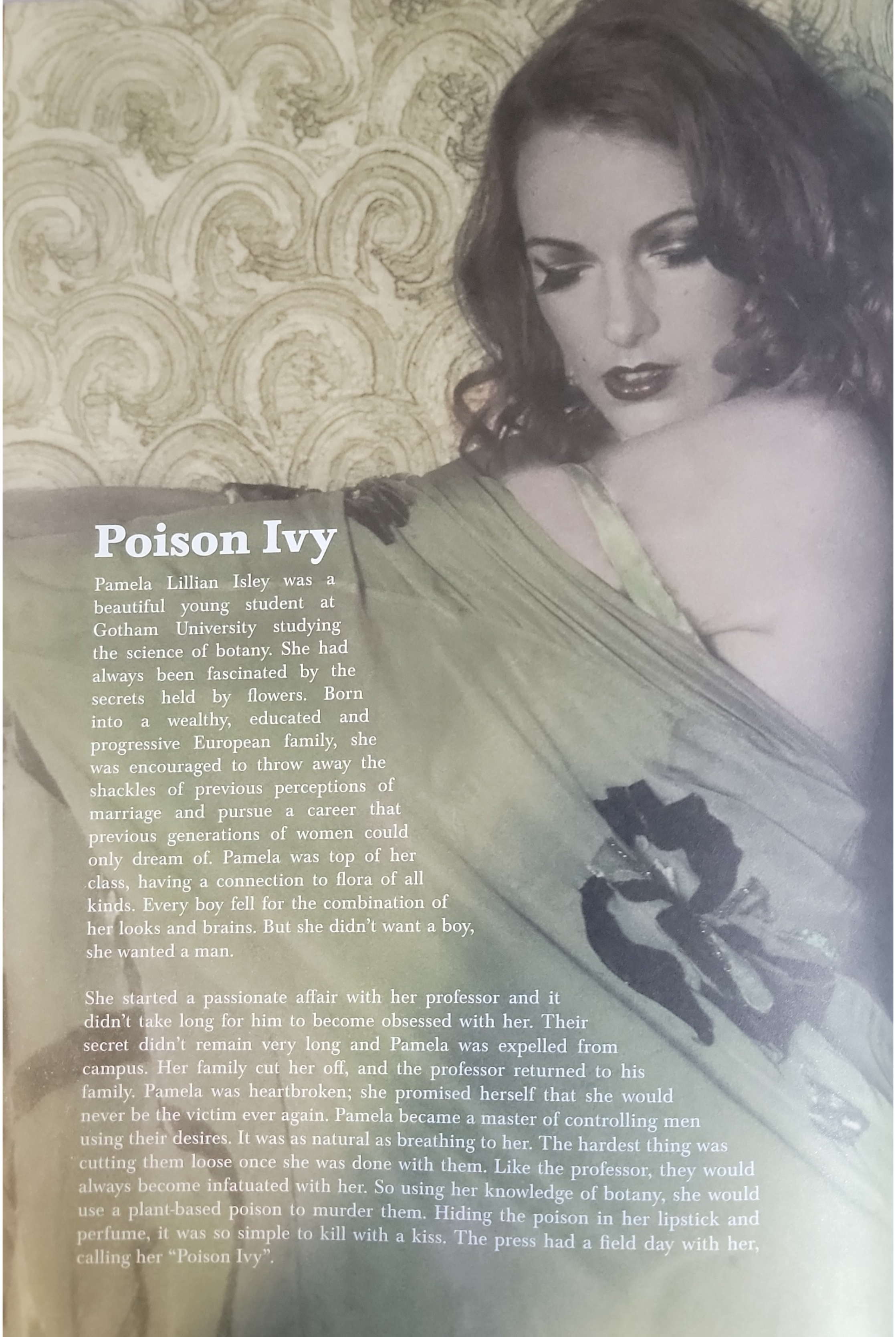
Harley Quinn

Harleen Frances Quinzel was a quiet girl who lived with her father, a mean drunk. He forced her to work at Arkham Asylum as a custodian so he could keep the money she earned for himself. She would spend almost every day in this hellish environment, cleaning that vile place from top to bottom. She tried to ignore the screams that seemed to come out of every cell, but those screams would follow her home at night. They would go around and around in her head – only stopping when her father would give her one of his regular drunken beatings to remind her to always be a good girl, and that she was never allowed to leave him.

One day she met an inmate that would change her life, the Joker. At first, she was scared – anyone who worked at Arkham had been warned to never talk to him or even go near his cell – but over the months she grew to believe that he was not the monster everyone had warned her about. She believed that he was a caring, passionate and creative man, who seemed to understand her as no one else had.

After 16 months of whispered conversations and secret handwritten letters, Harley was convinced that the Joker was the love of her life and that they were meant to be together. She helped him escape and he helped Harleen to face her greatest fear. Their first stop was Harleen's home. The Joker pushed her into killing her father, defining the moment Harleen Quinzel ceased to exist and Harley Quinn, the homicidal lover of the Joker, was born. Together they went on a cross-country crime spree that put Bonnie and Clyde to shame.





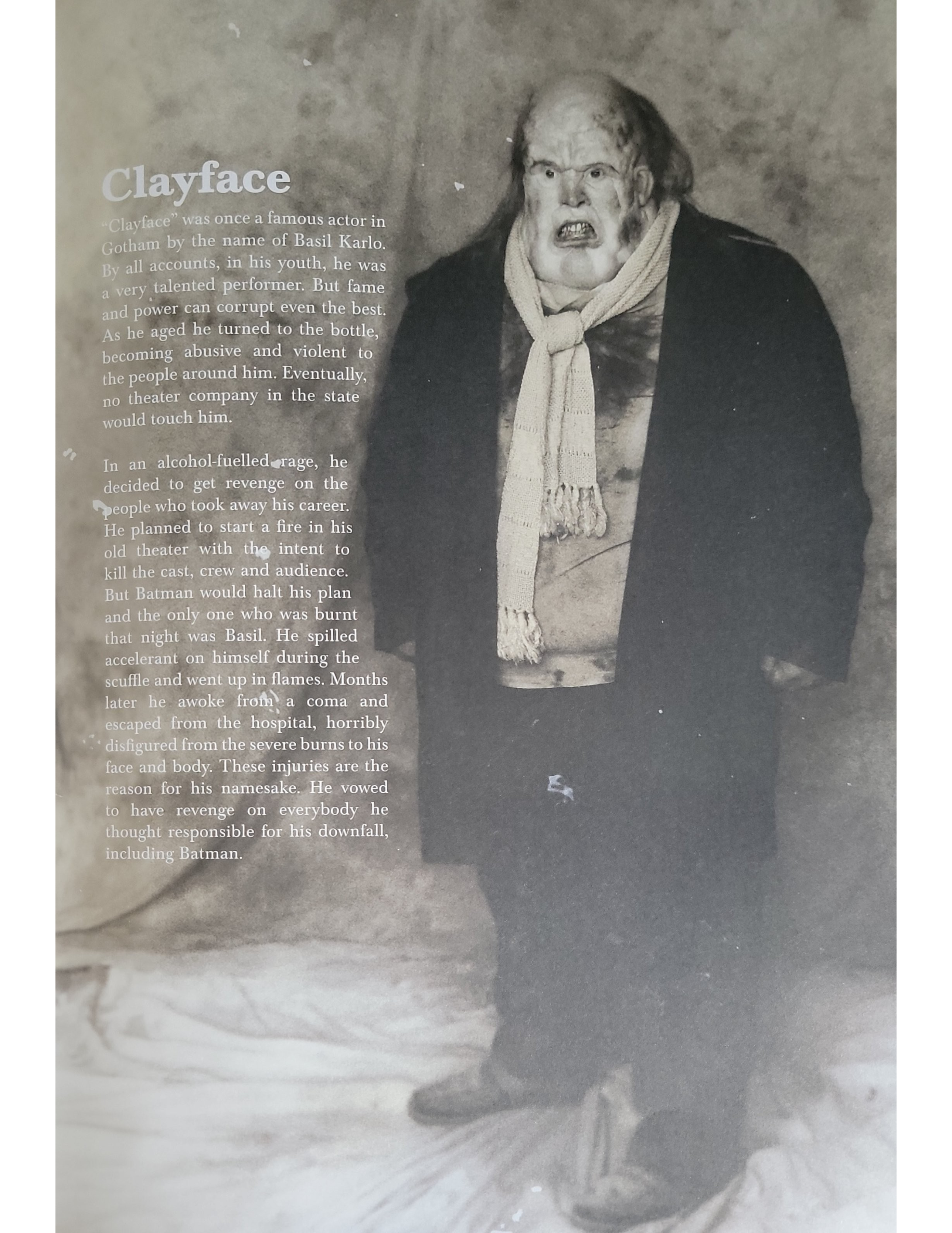
Poison Ivy

Pamela Lillian Isley was a beautiful young student at Gotham University studying the science of botany. She had always been fascinated by the secrets held by flowers. Born into a wealthy, educated and progressive European family, she was encouraged to throw away the shackles of previous perceptions of marriage and pursue a career that previous generations of women could only dream of. Pamela was top of her class, having a connection to flora of all kinds. Every boy fell for the combination of her looks and brains. But she didn't want a boy, she wanted a man.

She started a passionate affair with her professor and it didn't take long for him to become obsessed with her. Their secret didn't remain very long and Pamela was expelled from campus. Her family cut her off, and the professor returned to his family. Pamela was heartbroken; she promised herself that she would never be the victim ever again. Pamela became a master of controlling men using their desires. It was as natural as breathing to her. The hardest thing was cutting them loose once she was done with them. Like the professor, they would always become infatuated with her. So using her knowledge of botany, she would use a plant-based poison to murder them. Hiding the poison in her lipstick and perfume, it was so simple to kill with a kiss. The press had a field day with her, calling her "Poison Ivy".

ABOVE: A "French Postcard" of Pamela found in the hand of one of her victims, still clutching onto it even as he died from one of her poisons. This was her power: men fell so deeply in love with her to such a level that they would do anything she wanted without question.

LEFT: Poison Ivy's deadly perfume box, each bottle holding a different type of her plant-based toxic creations. Some would kill you fast, some would kill you slow. Some were painless, while others would make you scream. They all brought death.



Clayface

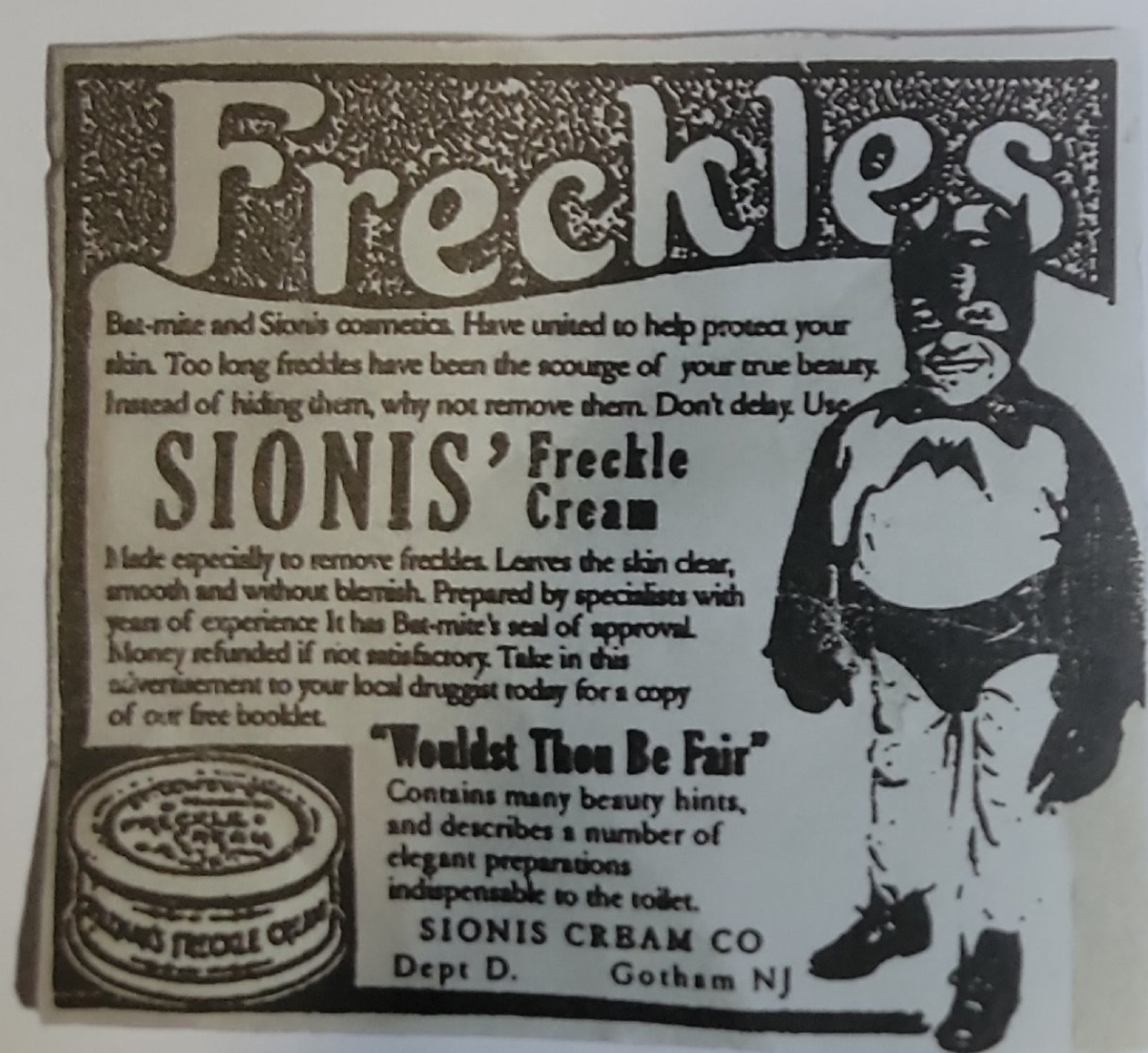
"Clayface" was once a famous actor in Gotham by the name of Basil Karlo. By all accounts, in his youth, he was a very talented performer. But fame and power can corrupt even the best. As he aged he turned to the bottle, becoming abusive and violent to the people around him. Eventually, no theater company in the state would touch him.

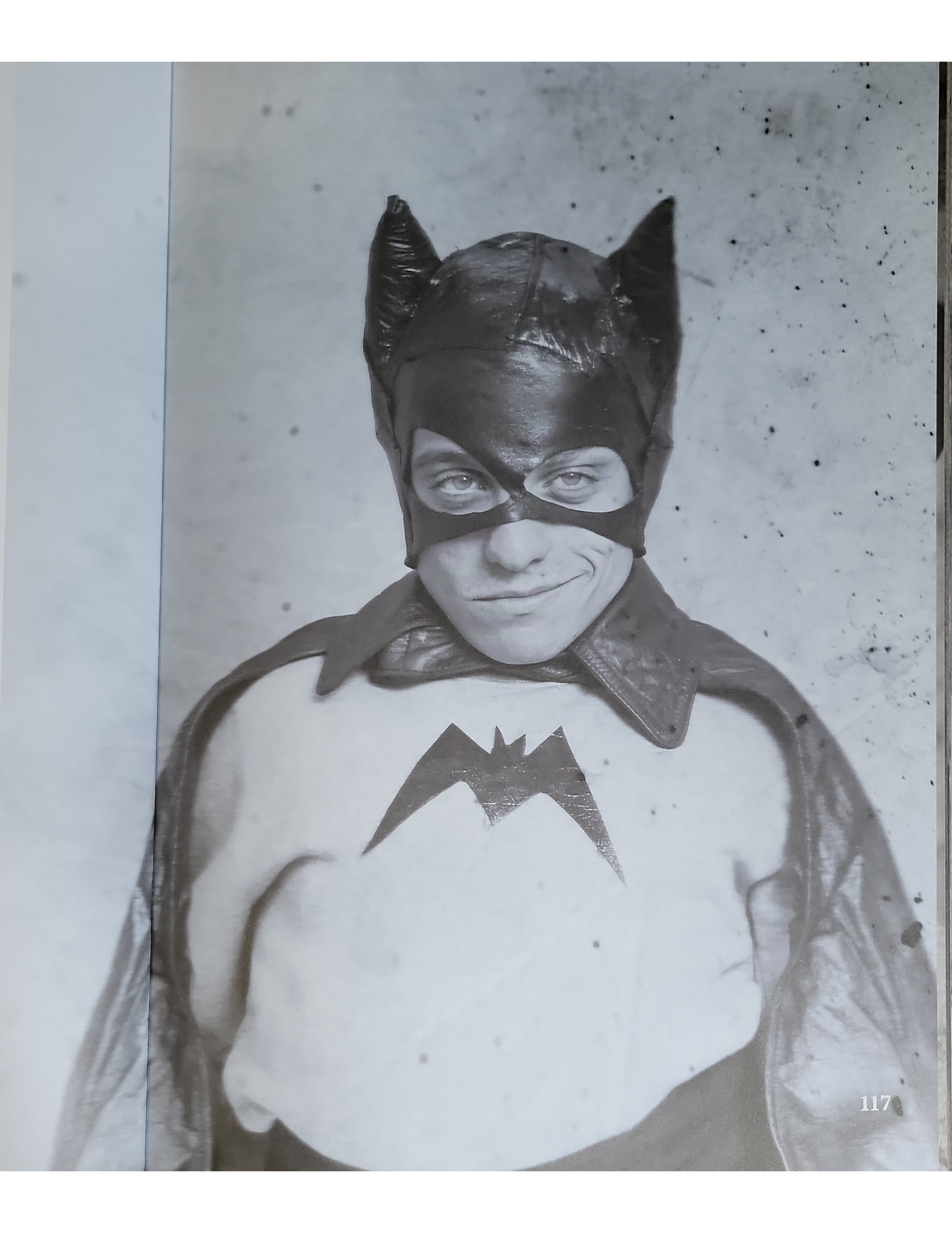
In an alcohol-fuelled rage, he decided to get revenge on the people who took away his career. He planned to start a fire in his old theater with the intent to kill the cast, crew and audience. But Batman would halt his plan and the only one who was burnt that night was Basil. He spilled accelerant on himself during the scuffle and went up in flames. Months later he awoke from a coma and escaped from the hospital, horribly disfigured from the severe burns to his face and body. These injuries are the reason for his namesake. He vowed to have revenge on everybody he thought responsible for his downfall, including Batman.

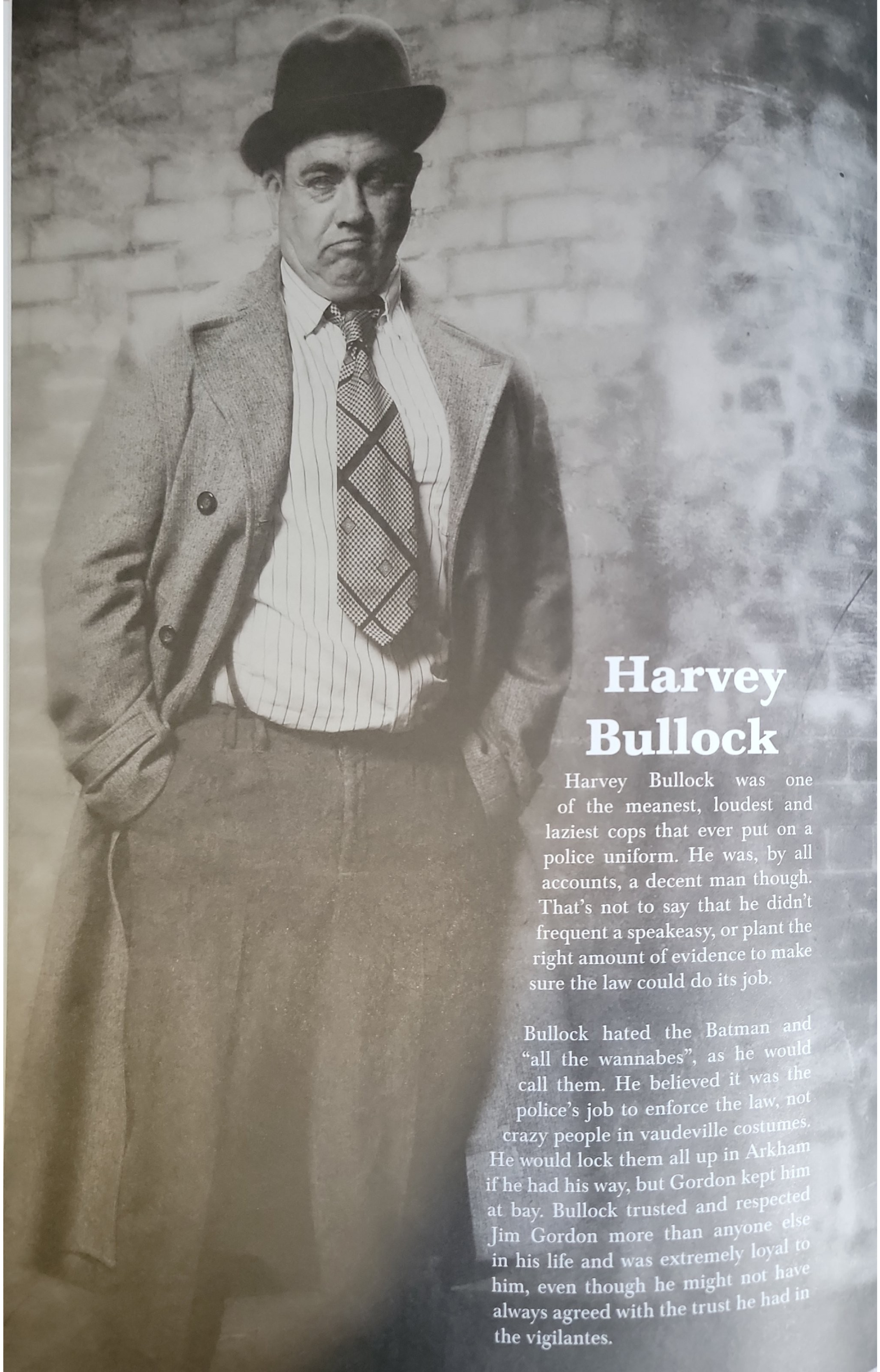
Bat-Mite

During the height of the "Batman Years", the Gotham Gazette sensationalized anything to do with mask-wearing vigilantes and criminals. In one of the most exploitative moments, they created their own satirical version of Batman to sell papers. Sheldon Finger was a small person who got the job and, for a period, was a celebrity in Gotham, appearing at public events and in the papers every other day. They even sold toys in his likeness.

All the fuss soon died down, as most fads usually do, and Sheldon was soon out of work. They had used his image to make a fortune for the paper, but he was left broke. The money didn't bother him so much, he missed the attention. All his life people looked at him with pity and while Sheldon had no delusions that it was all a big joke, when he was Bat-Mite, he felt different; like he was respected. It dawned on Sheldon he could join Batman in protecting the city. Chasing that feeling of admiration he once had as Bat-Mite would get him into a lot of trouble in the coming years, and he would become a great annoyance to Batman.



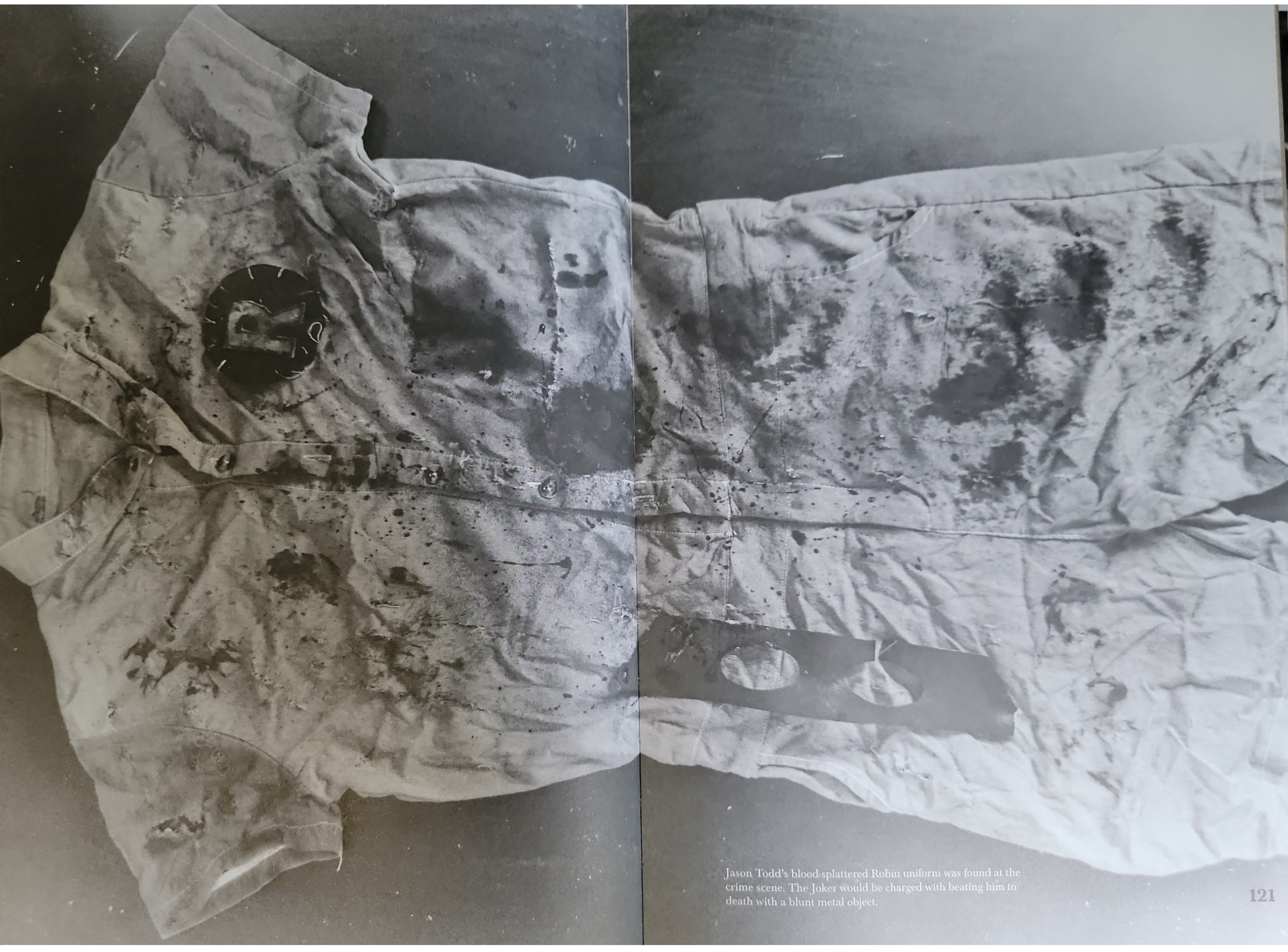




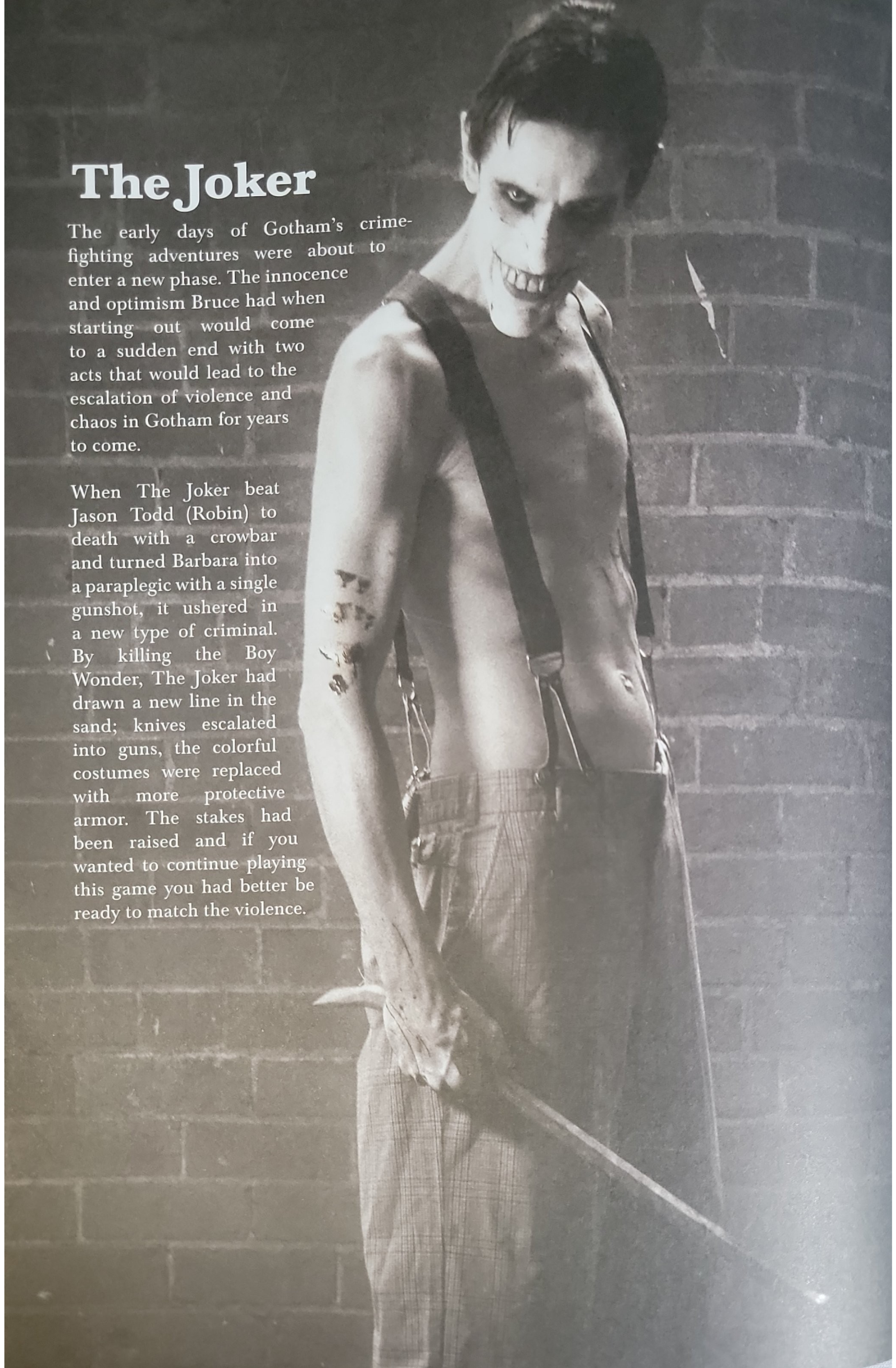
Harvey Bullock

Harvey Bullock was one of the meanest, loudest and laziest cops that ever put on a police uniform. He was, by all accounts, a decent man though. That's not to say that he didn't frequent a speakeasy, or plant the right amount of evidence to make sure the law could do its job.

Bullock hated the Batman and "all the wannabes", as he would call them. He believed it was the police's job to enforce the law, not crazy people in vaudeville costumes. He would lock them all up in Arkham if he had his way, but Gordon kept him at bay. Bullock trusted and respected Jim Gordon more than anyone else in his life and was extremely loyal to him, even though he might not have always agreed with the trust he had in the vigilantes.



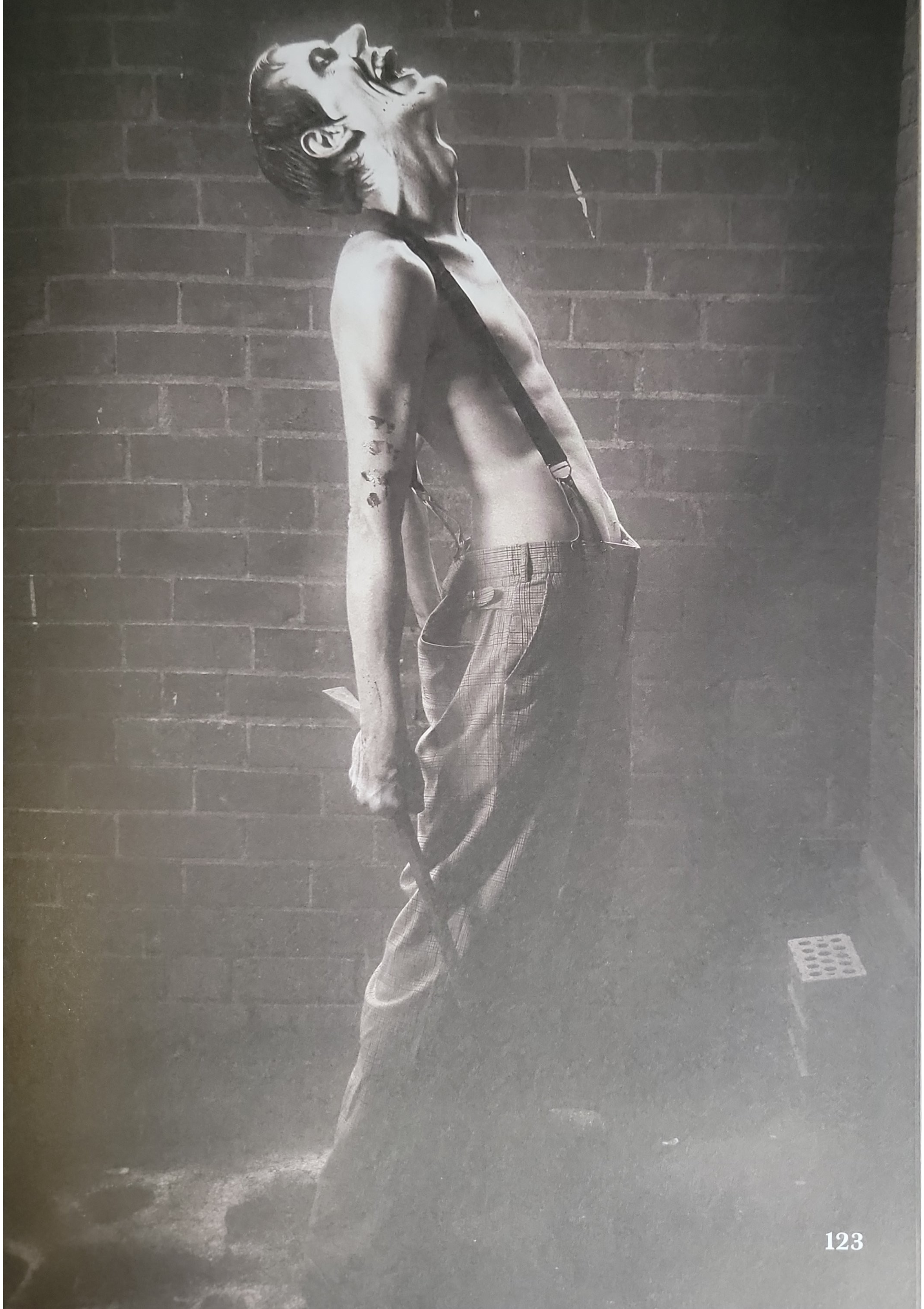
Jason Todd's blood-splattered Robin uniform was found at the crime scene. The Joker would be charged with beating him to death with a blunt metal object.



The Joker

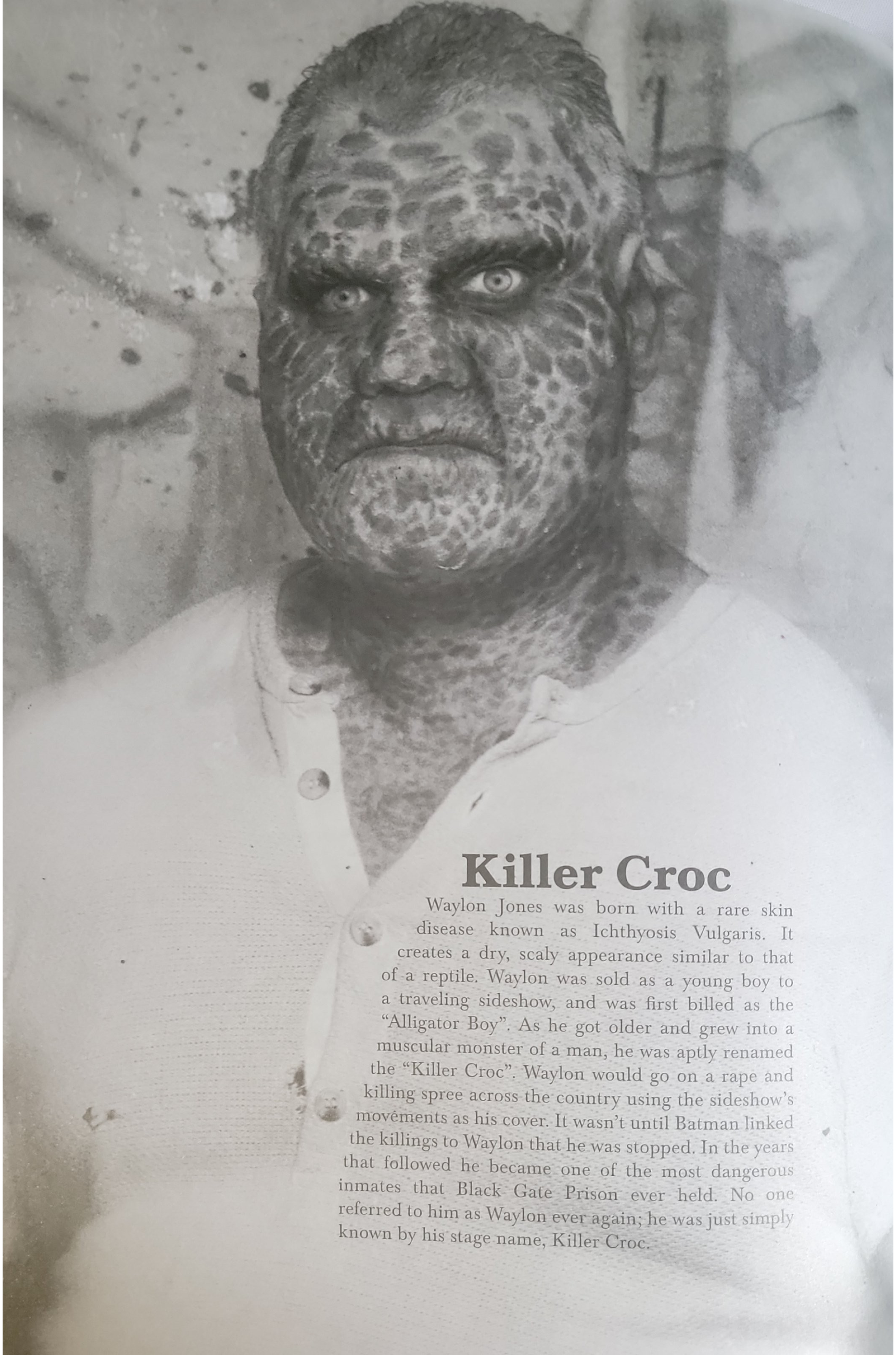
The early days of Gotham's crime-fighting adventures were about to enter a new phase. The innocence and optimism Bruce had when starting out would come to a sudden end with two acts that would lead to the escalation of violence and chaos in Gotham for years to come.

When The Joker beat Jason Todd (Robin) to death with a crowbar and turned Barbara into a paraplegic with a single gunshot, it ushered in a new type of criminal. By killing the Boy Wonder, The Joker had drawn a new line in the sand; knives escalated into guns, the colorful costumes were replaced with more protective armor. The stakes had been raised and if you wanted to continue playing this game you had better be ready to match the violence.



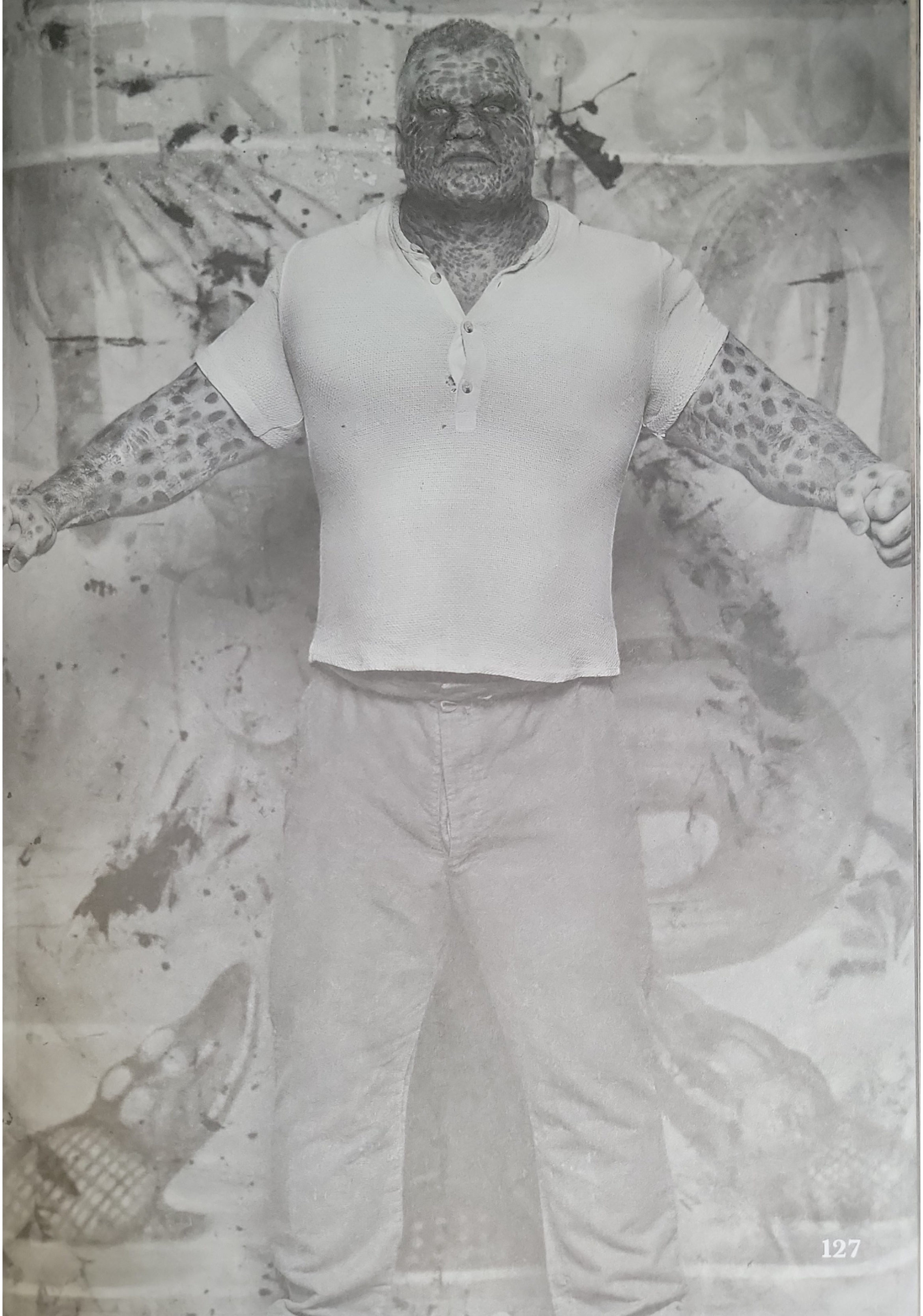
1929 - 1934

Gotham & The Batman



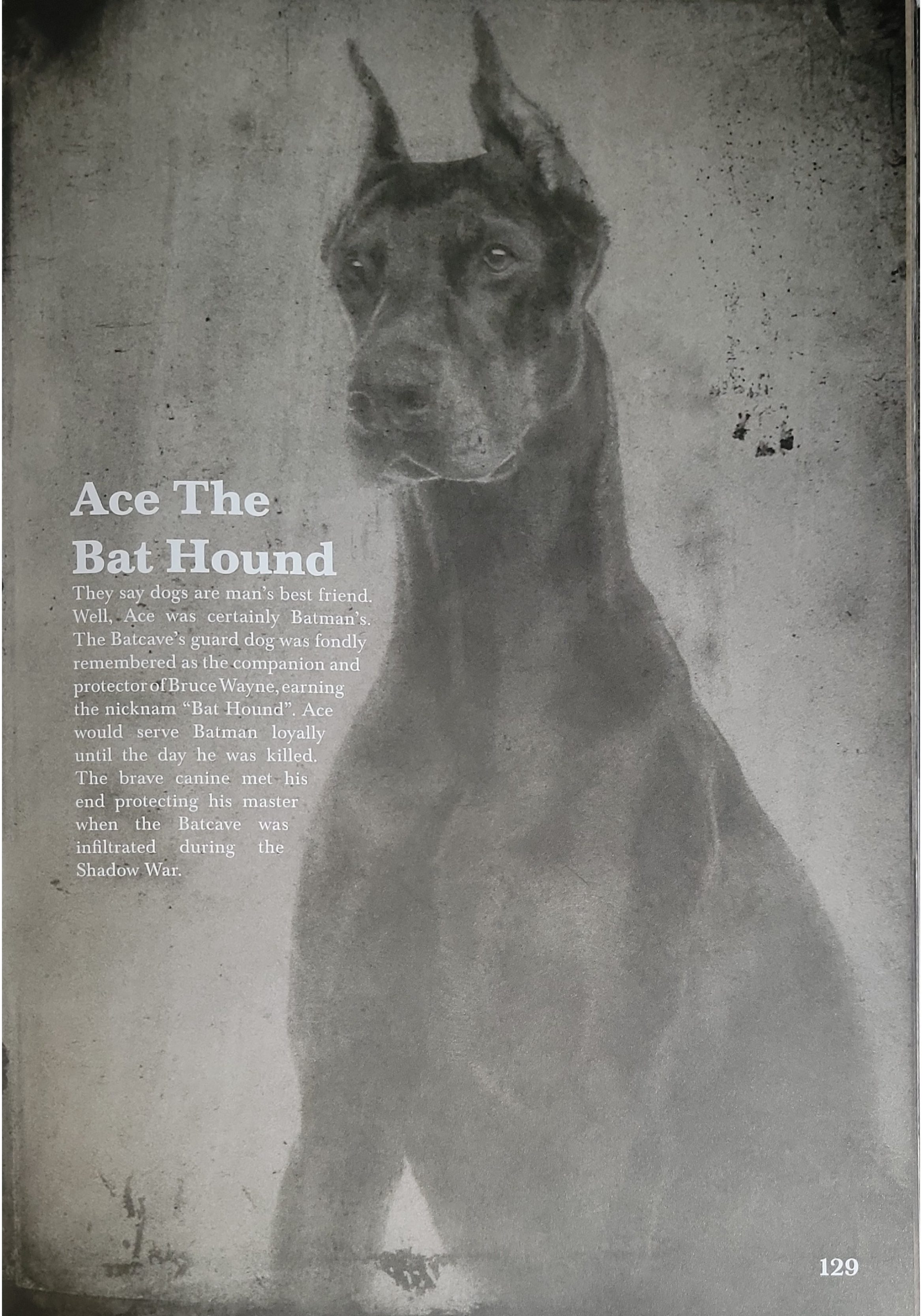
Killer Croc

Waylon Jones was born with a rare skin disease known as Ichthyosis Vulgaris. It creates a dry, scaly appearance similar to that of a reptile. Waylon was sold as a young boy to a traveling sideshow, and was first billed as the "Alligator Boy". As he got older and grew into a muscular monster of a man, he was aptly renamed the "Killer Croc". Waylon would go on a rape and killing spree across the country using the sideshow's movements as his cover. It wasn't until Batman linked the killings to Waylon that he was stopped. In the years that followed he became one of the most dangerous inmates that Black Gate Prison ever held. No one referred to him as Waylon ever again; he was just simply known by his stage name, Killer Croc.



ABOVE: Killer Croc's original salvaged sideshow banner.

RIGHT: A discovered Killer Croc souvenir card that was available to purchase.



Ace The Bat Hound

They say dogs are man's best friend. Well, Ace was certainly Batman's. The Batcave's guard dog was fondly remembered as the companion and protector of Bruce Wayne, earning the nicknam "Bat Hound". Ace would serve Batman loyally until the day he was killed. The brave canine met his end protecting his master when the Batcave was infiltrated during the Shadow War.

Condiment King

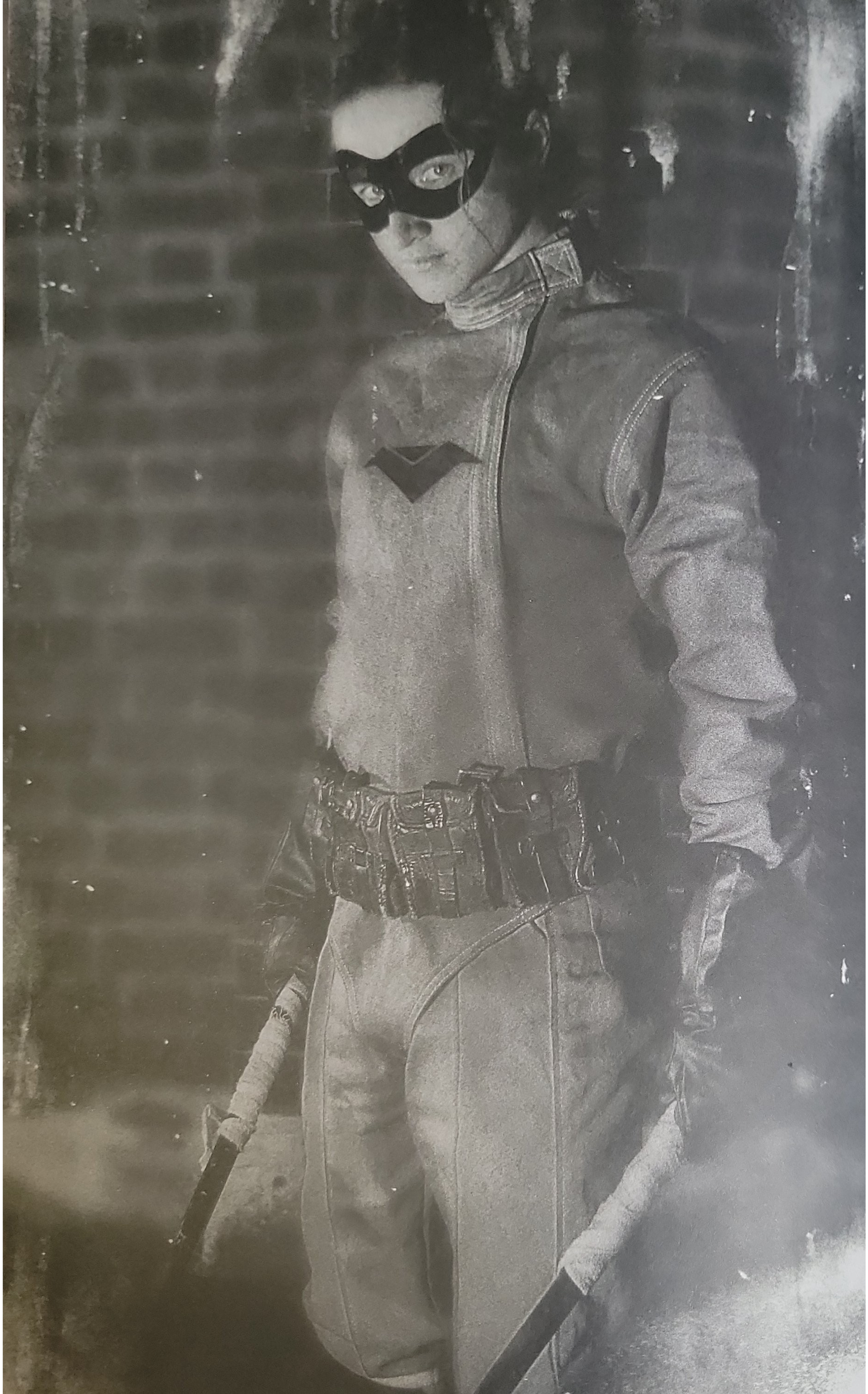
Mitchell Mayo took on the name the "Condiment King" as a nod to the mascot of the Gotham-based company he would attempt to extort. A household brand name, the character was created years earlier.

Mitchell used to work for the company in quality control, but he always had bigger plans. He saw men work for the same companies their whole lives, until they ended up in the grave. But that wasn't for him.

He began blackmailing the company by randomly poisoning a number of their products – ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, etc. By the time he sent his first letter, seven people had died. He demanded the company pay him or he'd continue to poison their products, mockingly signing the letter as the Condiment King.

It took the combined efforts of the Batman and GCPD to bring a stop to this murderer.

ABOVE: One of the Condiment King's poisoned bottles..



Nightwing

After years of being the Boy Wonder, Dick Grayson had seen too much to keep pretending to be the colorful young sidekick to Batman. Dick yearned for independence. Like all sons and their fathers, the day came when he needed to prove to Bruce that he was his own man. He shed the red, yellow, and green and became Nightwing, assuming the dark color palette of his mentor. Still a valued member of the Bat-Team, Dick was no longer anyone's sidekick.

Flamme
Damit

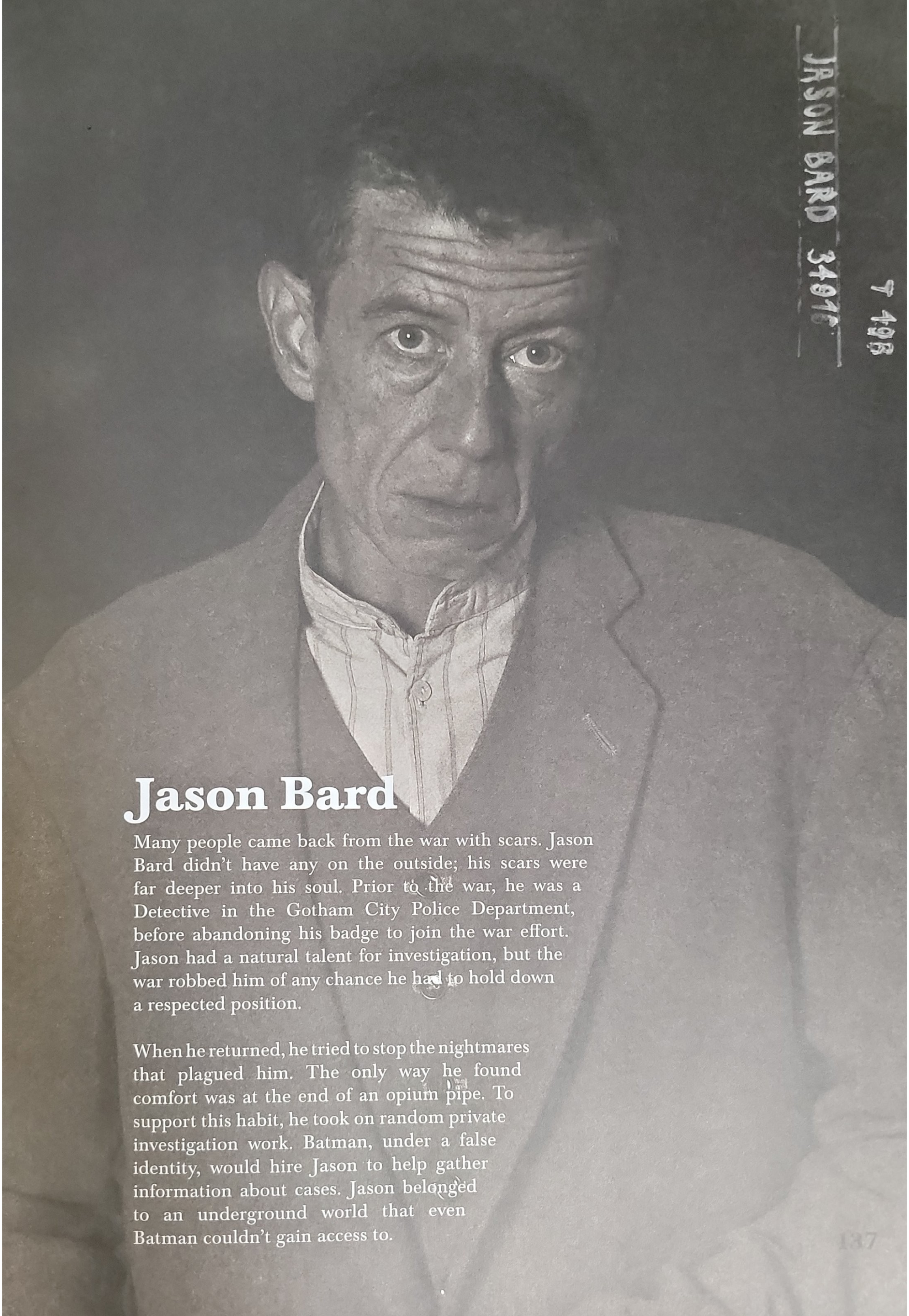
Azrael

Under the mask of Azrael was a troubled man named Jean-Paul Valley. He was trained from birth to be the assassin and enforcer for the Sacred Order of Saint Dumas, an ancient splinter group of the Knights Templar. Jean-Paul's bloodline had held the title of Azrael for hundreds of years; his father was Azrael before him, and so forth. The Order used this time to perfect the genetic lineage through a careful breeding program and conditioning to create the ultimate warrior. This process was called the "System". He knew no other life except preparing to become an avenging Angel of Death.

Nomoz & The Sacred Order Of Saint Dumas

Nomoz was a monk of the Sacred Order of Saint Dumas. He was responsible for turning Jean- Paul Valley into the assassin Azrael. Nomoz, like all members of the Order, had blood ties that dated back hundreds of years to the formation of the Order during the Crusades. Originally part of the Knights Templar, they broke away before King Philip the Fair came and suppressed the Templars. They formed a smaller splinter group that could act in secret, made up of only the most zealous amongst them.

The Order named themselves after the teachings and guidance of their first leader, Dumas, a self-proclaimed saint. Over the centuries that followed, the Order had a hand in shaping the modern world with the help of their elite assassin, "Azrael, the Avenging Angel of Death", while perfecting the breeding and training program, the System, that created their almost superhuman warriors. Even though the Order was a shell of its former self, the System had produced its most skilled Azrael to date in Jean-Paul Valley, and Nomoz was the one that controlled him.



Jason Bard

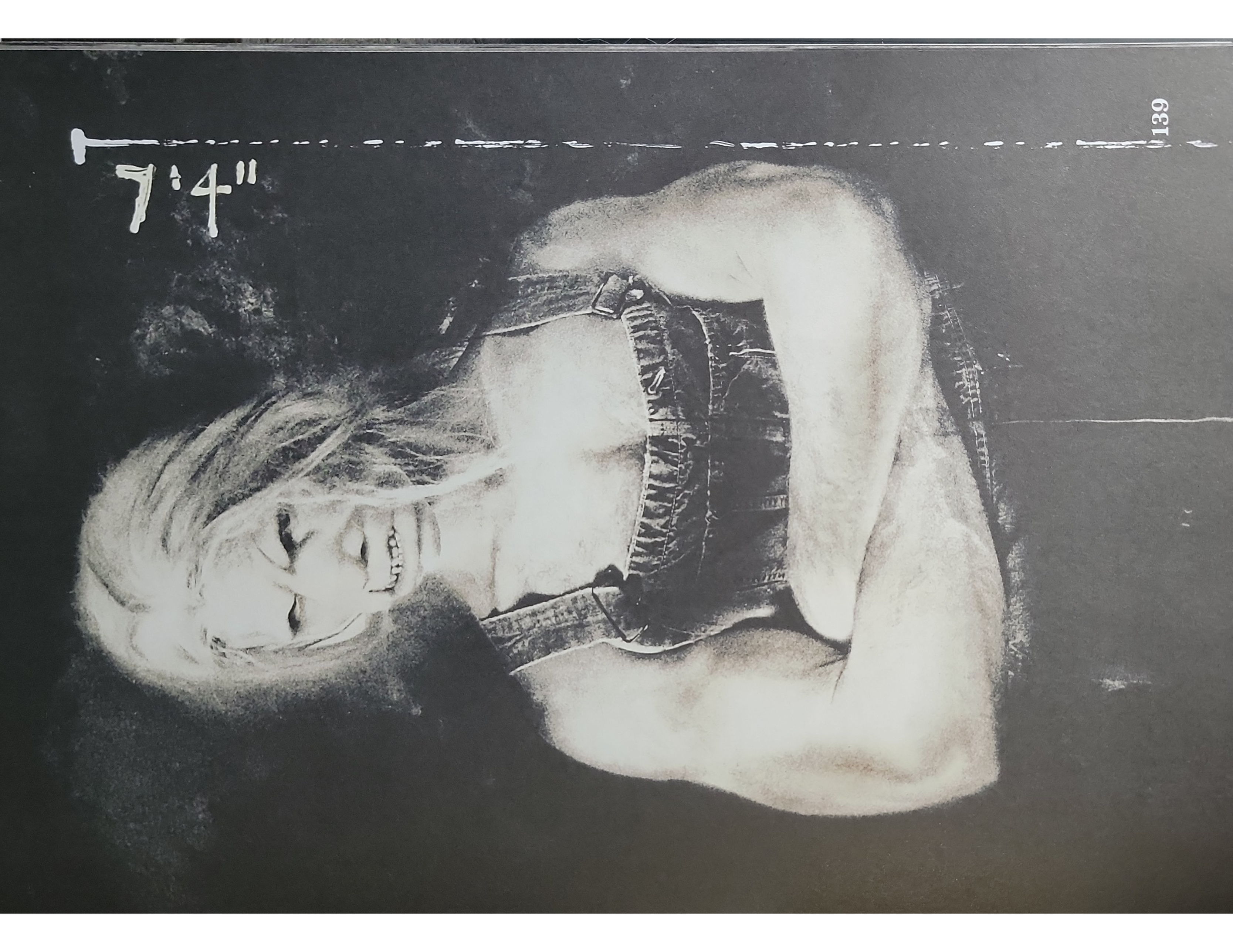
Many people came back from the war with scars. Jason Bard didn't have any on the outside; his scars were far deeper into his soul. Prior to the war, he was a Detective in the Gotham City Police Department, before abandoning his badge to join the war effort. Jason had a natural talent for investigation, but the war robbed him of any chance he had to hold down a respected position.

When he returned, he tried to stop the nightmares that plagued him. The only way he found comfort was at the end of an opium pipe. To support this habit, he took on random private investigation work. Batman, under a false identity, would hire Jason to help gather information about cases. Jason belonged to an underground world that even Batman couldn't gain access to.

Solomon Grundy

Not much is known about Solomon Grundy. He was an albino over seven-feet tall, raised in the "Slaughter Swamp" within the Gotham Everglades. He was locked away from the world, his family ashamed of the son that was born from incest. He had a low IQ and only spoke in broken sentences. But his lack of intelligence was made up for by his physical prowess.

After years of torment, he killed his own family with his bare hands. For the first time the world made sense to him – if people tried to hurt him, he would simply kill them. Solomon traveled to Gotham, living amongst the homeless camps on the edge of the city. When asked questions about his origins, he replied that he was born on a Monday. One of the homeless men remembered an old nursery rhyme character that was born on Monday called "Solomon Grundy". He liked this story and chose to take on the name. Solomon used his almost inhuman strength to do and take whatever he wanted. It wasn't long before Batman had to come face to face with this albino monster.


7'4"

Form DCI 2—Rev—9-30-57

State of New Jersey
Department of Correction
Division of Identification
Gotham City, N.J.

From:

Bureau of Technical Servi
Police Headquarters, Cen

DCI #

Number 2487891 Sex M

Name Oswalt Cobblepot

Address 24 Lennox St Hunters Hill, Gotham City

Aliases The Penguin

Nicknames

Crime Tax Evasion (Include Degree Charged)

CHECK: (V)	Felony (✓) Offense ( )	Misdemeanor ( ) Unknown ( )

Place of Crime Downtown Gotham (Borough, City or Village) (County) NJ (State)

Date of Crime 10 (Month) 17 (Day) 1927 (Year)

Arresting Dept. Treasury Precinct

Precinct Arrest # Officer and Shield #

Place of Arrest Iceberg Club, Downtown Gotham NJ. (Borough, City or Village) (County) (State)

Date of Arrest 10 (Month) 17 (Day) 1981 (Year)

Names of Associates:

Brief Statement of Criminal Act: Failure to declare and pay state & federal taxes from business ventures as well as personal income

Disposition: Angered, frustrated, threatening

Term: 15 Years

Date Sentenced: 24 October '31 Date Received: 24 October '31

Judge: Kane Court: Gotham County County: Gotham

U.S. Citizen: Yes (✓) No ( )

Age: 62 Born 6 (Month) 14 (Day) 1869 (Year)

Height: 5 Ft. 9 In.—Weight: 847

Build: Heavy.

Complexion: Pale

Hair: Gray Eyes: Brown

Place of Birth: Gotham City (City) NJ (State)

Apparent Nationality: American

Occupation: Night Club Operator

Mustache: Yes ( ) No ( )

Left Handed: Yes ( ) No ( )

Wears Glasses: Yes ( ) No ( )

Complainant:

Address:

Scars and Marks: (Describe—State if none.) –

Tattoos: (Describe—State if none.) –

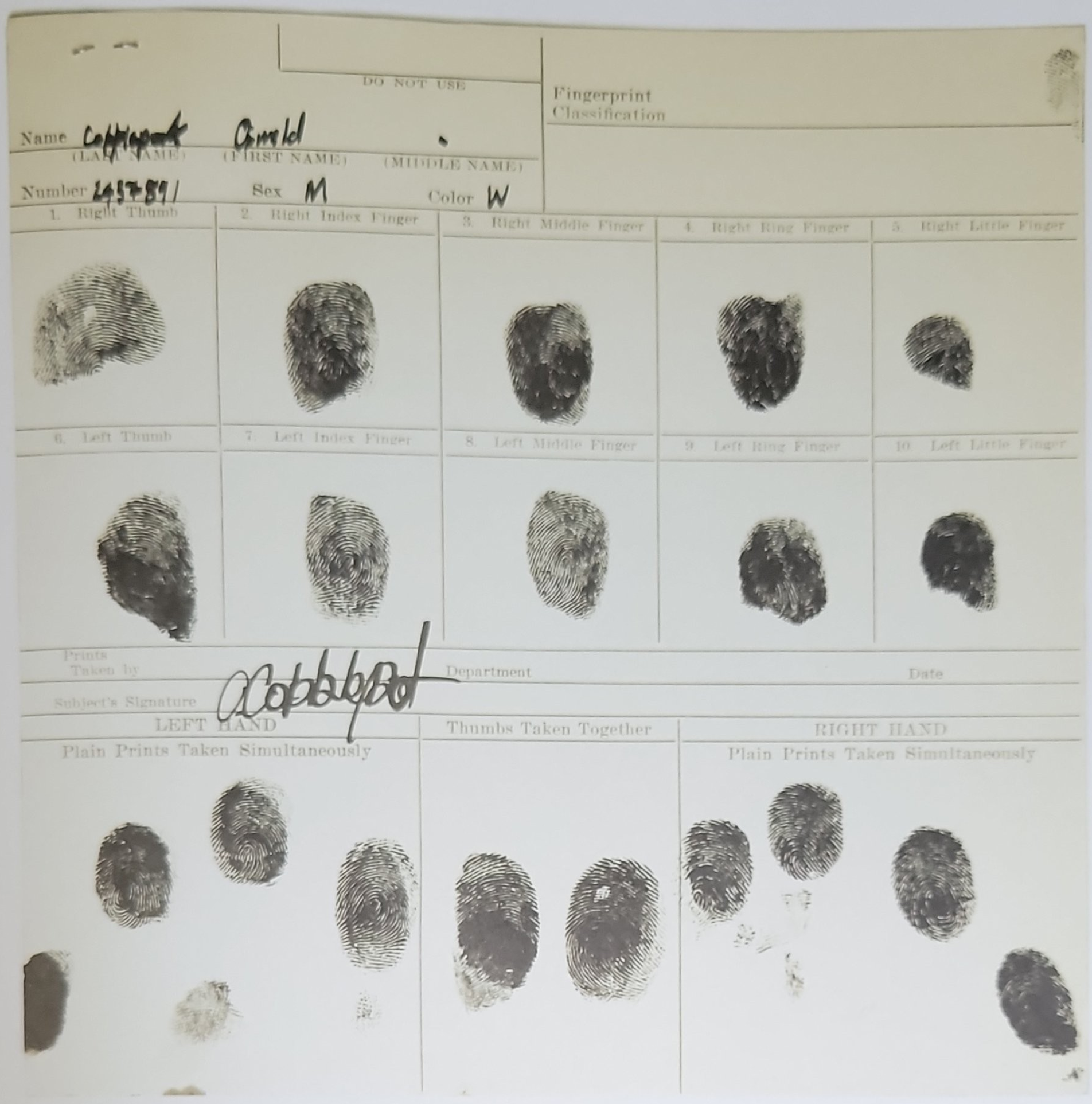
Other Characteristics:

Often carries weapon disguised as an umbrella

(Attach Photograph & Additional Criminal History)

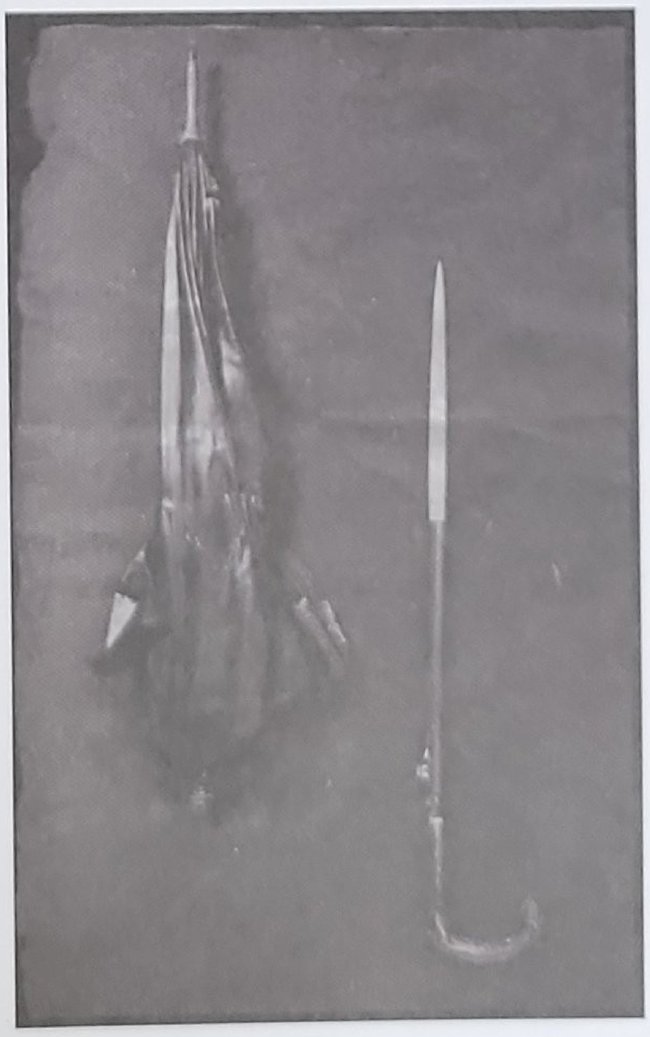
Penguin

The years had been good to Oswald. He was the last man standing from the gang wars. The Volstead Act, which prohibited the manufacture, sale and consumption of alcohol in the United States of America, had made him very powerful. Running illegal booze and speakeasies, he had become one of the richest men in America. Even Batman struggled to keep him behind bars. Every time they got close to linking him to his criminal empire, his lawyers would have him walking out of jail as a free man once more. That is until Lucius Fox and Oracle tried a different tactic. They followed the paper trail to The Penguin's accountant, Noah Kutler (aka The Calculator) and managed to figure out that Oswald had not declared or paid any income tax to the government in over ten years. He had no way to prove his wealth in any legitimate way. Batman provided the proof that the Treasury Department needed to bring down the Penguin for tax evasion.



RIGHT: One of the seized trick umbrellas.

BELOW: A Matchbook from the Penguin's speakeasy "Iceberg Club".



ABOVE: Single shot concealed gun.

Some designs from the Penguin's umbrella arsenal.

BELOW: Bulletproof extendable shield.

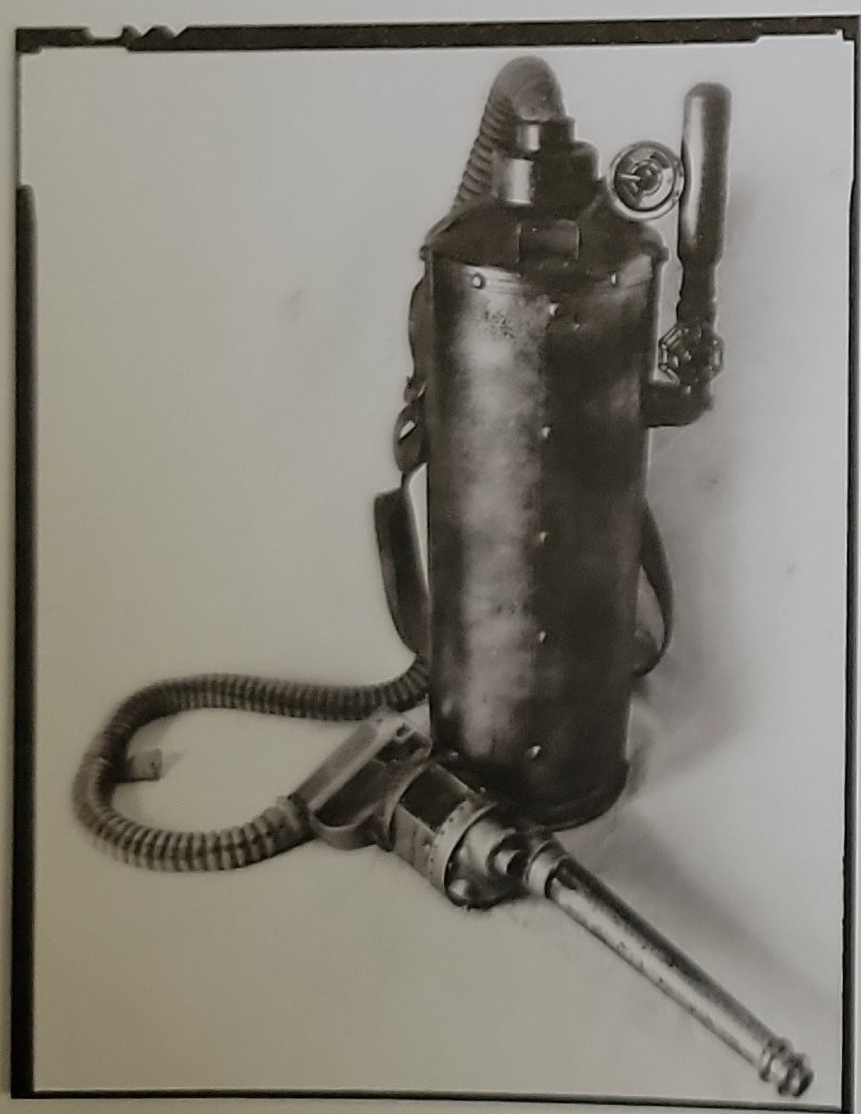
Mr. Freeze

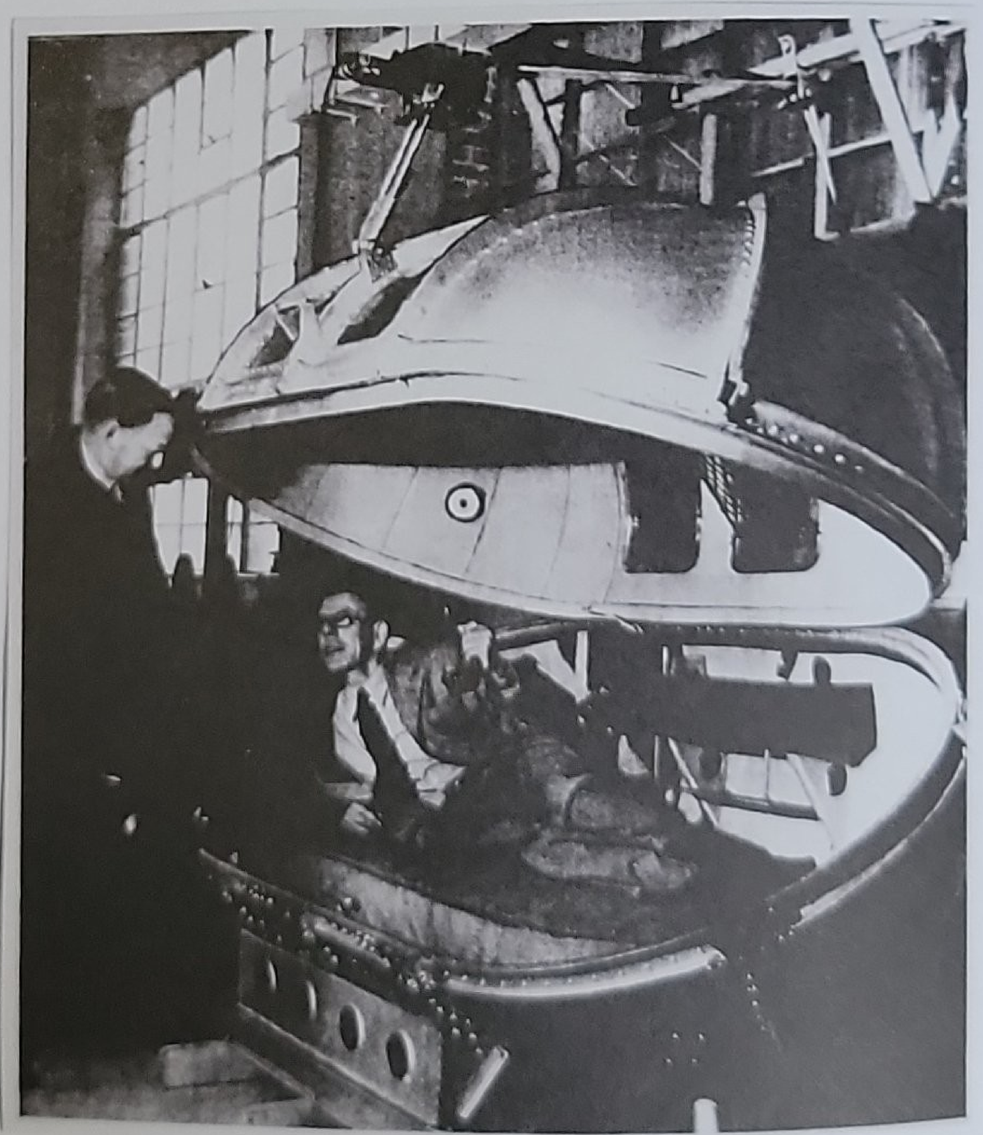
Victor Fries was an Austrian scientist who came to America to develop his research. What he didn't expect to find was love. The woman that melted his heart was named Nora and they soon married. His research was funded by the second biggest company in Gotham, Gothcorp. They were in a technology race with Wayne Enterprises and looking for the next scientific revolution.

Victor's life was perfect, but perfection cannot last. Nora was dying, and Victor thought his research was the key to saving her. Using embezzled funds to speed up his research it was not long before the board of Gothcorp realized what he was doing and forcibly shut down his lab. Victor tried to stop them to save his research and during this confrontation, he was covered in a sub-zero substance that transformed his body beyond that of a normal human. Victor had increased strength, didn't feel pain and was immune to all sickness, but the trade-off was he was forced to live in below-freezing temperatures.

Soon after his accident, Nora died, and Victor's grief was overshadowed by his anger. He blamed Gothcorp's board of directors and would not rest until they shared Nora's fate. Victor built a suit that would keep him cool and weaponized his technology to become one of the greatest threats to Gotham: Mr. Freeze.

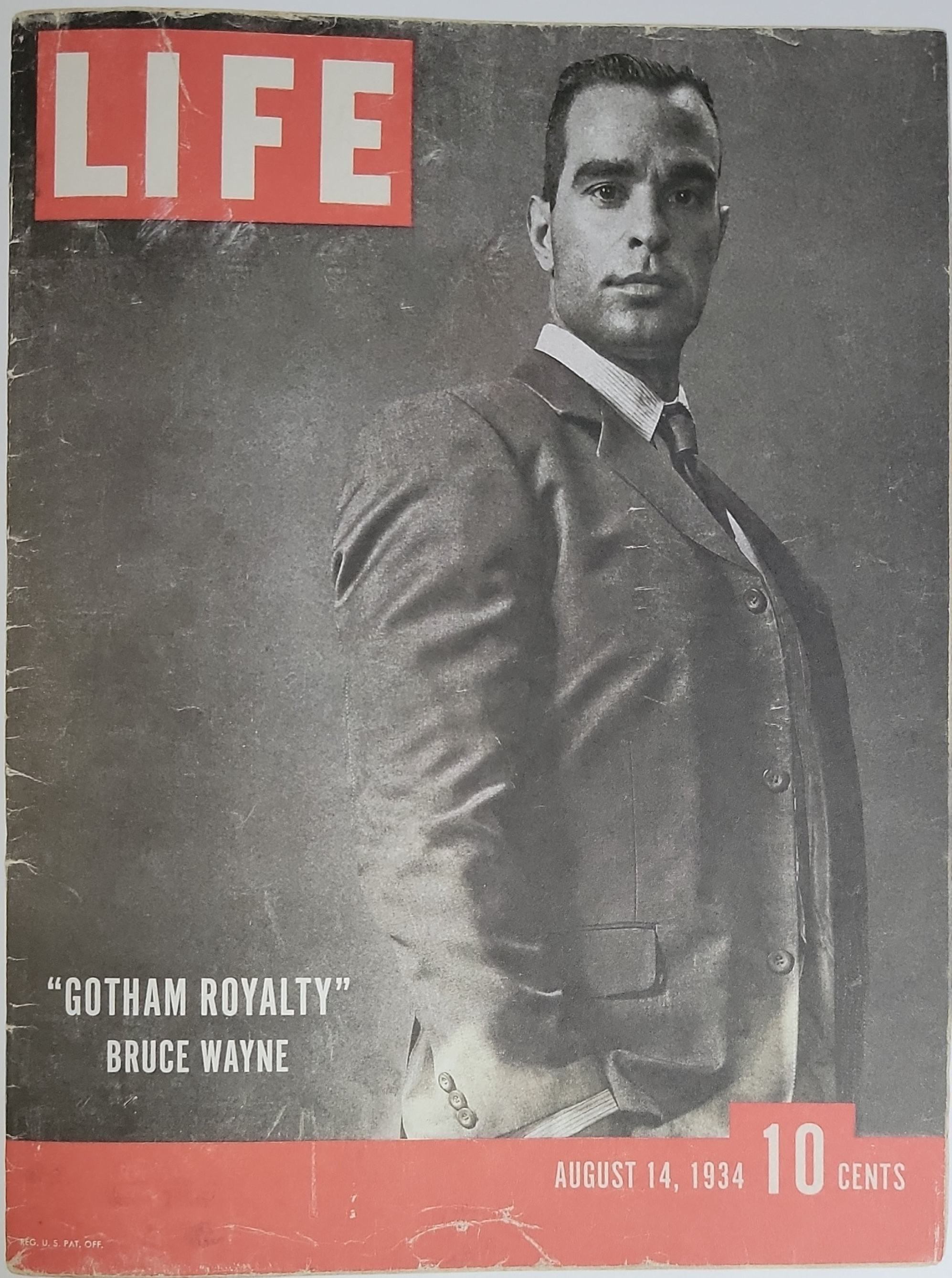
ABOVE: A frozen car in the aftermath of a Mr. Freeze terror attack.





LEFT: Mr. Freeze's "Ice Gun" and pressure containment tank filled with his cryogenic liquid molecules.

RIGHT: Victor Fries showing off his cryogenic research to Gothcorp management prior to his accident.



ABOVE: Bruce Wayne on the cover of Life magazine, 1934.

ABOVE: A mugshot of one of the Ghost Dragons

The Battle For Chinatown

America had thought they'd seen the last of the "Tong Wars" that had plagued the Chinatowns of American cities in the late 1800s – but Gotham would play host to the last, and one of the bloodiest.

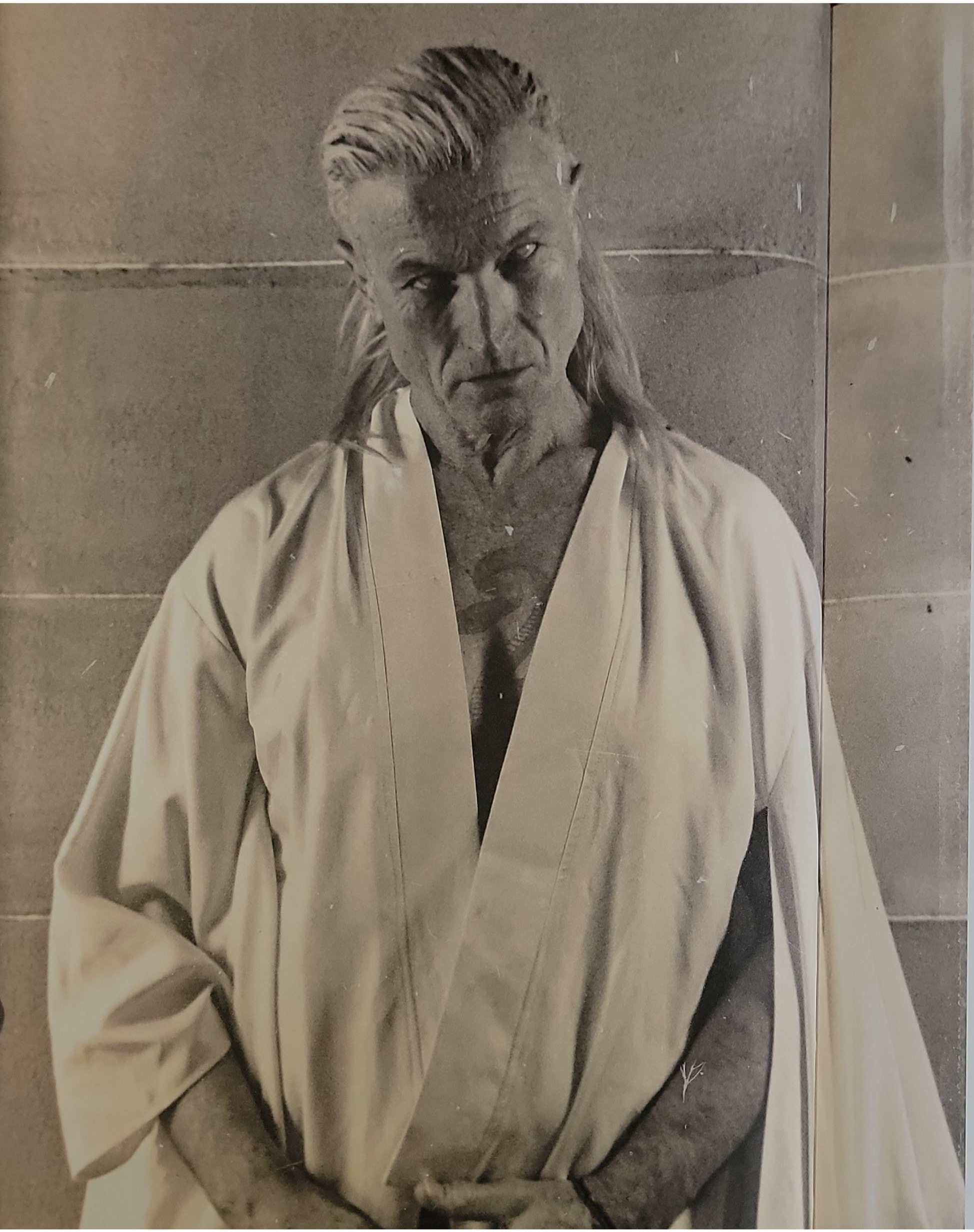
Lady Shiva had consolidated the illegal businesses in Gotham's Chinatown. Racketeering, gambling, prostitution and the opium trade, the most profitable of them all, were all under her control.

Her success didn't go unnoticed, as soon a new competitor came to Gotham in the form of the Ghost Dragons and their leader, the King Snake. Over a seven-month period King Snake and Lady Shiva would tear Chinatown apart. Through all this chaos came an abundance of civilian casualties.

Lady Shiva

Lady Shiva had become comfortable as the boss of Chinatown. Now she was in the middle of a war with the Ghost Dragons and their leader, King Snake. She had almost forgotten about her former life until she learned that David Cain had come to Gotham, bringing their daughter Cassandra with him. This came as a shock, as Cain had convinced her that Cassandra had died many years earlier.

Lady Shiva realized that she was losing the war, so she turned to Batman for help. While this was a great insult to her honor, she did it in order to save Cassandra from the years of brainwashing that Cain would put her through.



King Snake

Edmund Dorrance was a British soldier who was based in Hong Kong during his youth. Well-known throughout Her Majesty's Service for his combat abilities, he was dishonorably discharged after it was revealed he was taking bribes from local Triads.

Without the protection of the British army behind him, the Triads realized they no longer had a use for him. He was ambushed by many men, and as punishment for years of disrespect, they beat him into a bloody mess. Leaving him for dead, their final torment was to blind him.

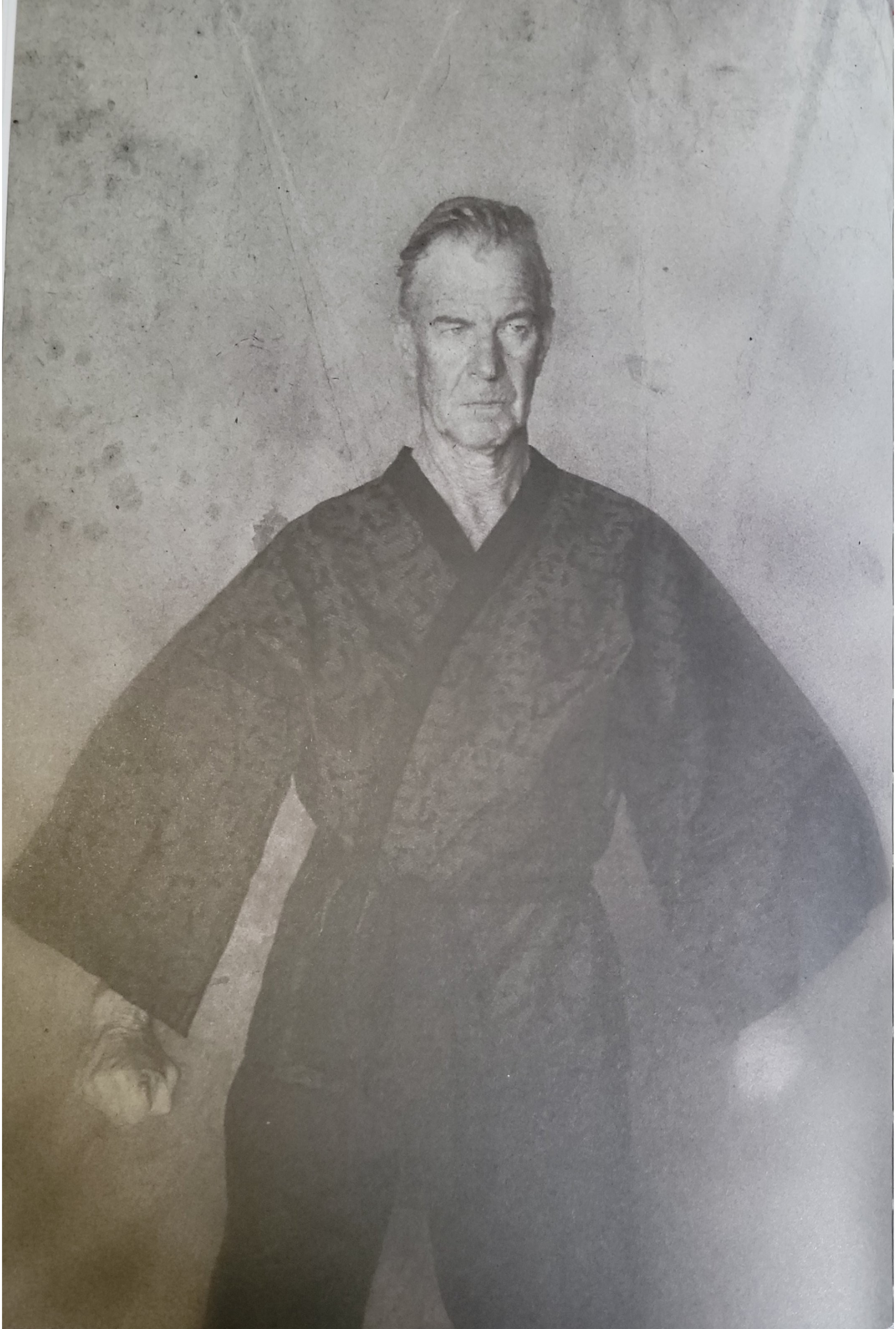
While Edmund healed, he planned. Using the last of his wealth to travel throughout South East Asia, he would learn every fighting style he could find. He wanted anything that would help him hone his skills and heighten his remaining senses.

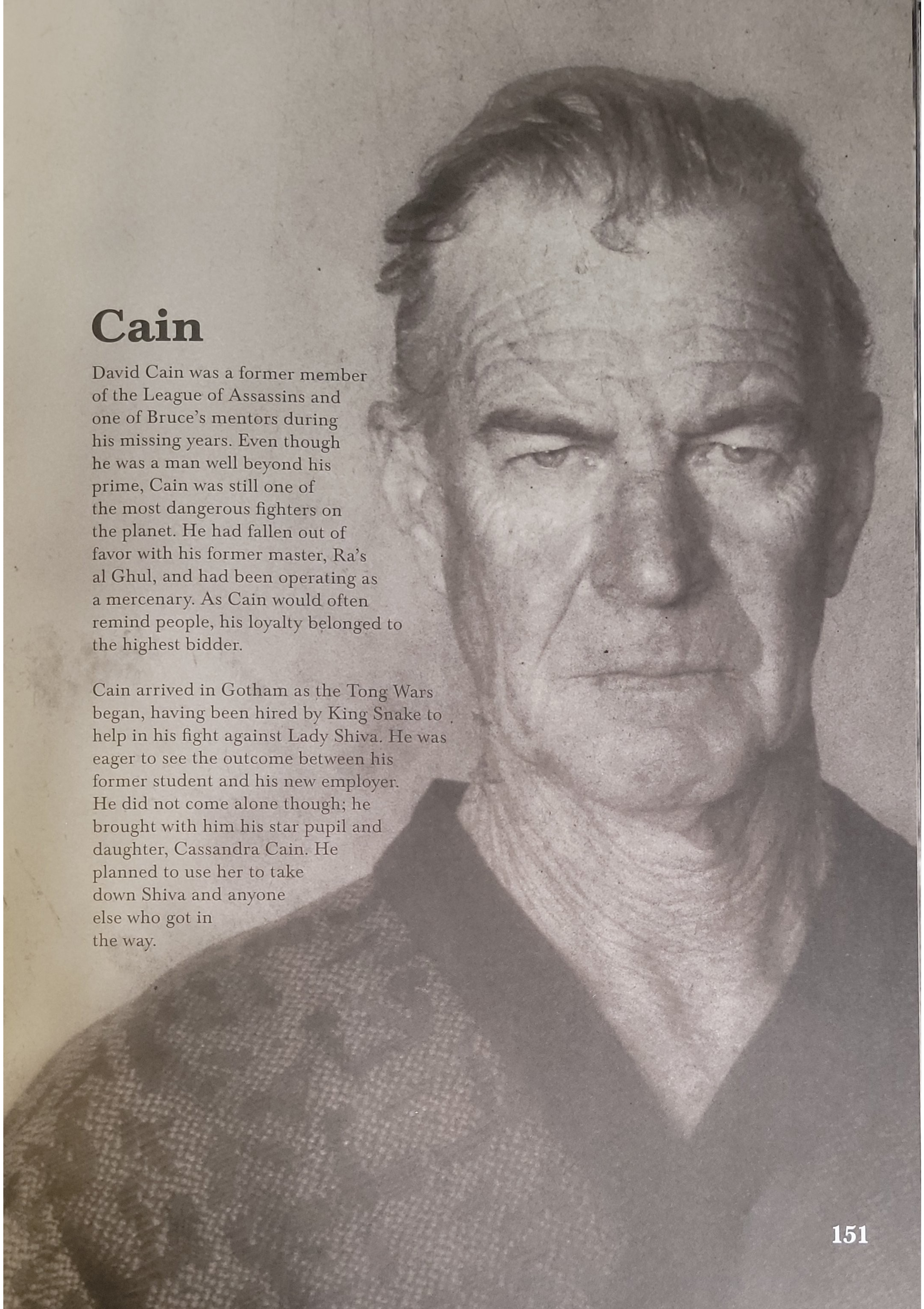
Edmund spent the next few years putting his skills to use while traveling the world and working as a mercenary.

He'd eventually arrive in pre-revolution Mexico, finding work with the corrupt factory owners. With the support of President Porfirio Díaz, he would help to suppress the workers striking for fair pay by any means necessary.
Edmund became known for the brutal and cruel punishments he doled out to anyone who dared to go against those in power. He became wealthy and took a local as his wife, all while still plotting his revenge.

In the lead-up to the Mexican Revolution, Edmund had to flee the country as he became a target for execution. He was branded a traitor, leaving his family behind to pay for his crimes. This included his pregnant wife and unborn son.

After years abroad, Edmund finally returned to Hong Kong to enact his long overdue revenge. He began taking over the Triads one by one, eventually becoming the King Snake of Hong Kong. With the combined strength of his army, dubbed the Ghost Dragons, he would eventually head to Gotham to take over Lady Shiva's business, igniting the Gotham City Tong War.





Cain

David Cain was a former member of the League of Assassins and one of Bruce's mentors during his missing years. Even though he was a man well beyond his prime, Cain was still one of the most dangerous fighters on the planet. He had fallen out of favor with his former master, Ra's al Ghul, and had been operating as a mercenary. As Cain would often remind people, his loyalty belonged to the highest bidder.

Cain arrived in Gotham as the Tong Wars began, having been hired by King Snake to help in his fight against Lady Shiva. He was eager to see the outcome between his former student and his new employer. He did not come alone though; he brought with him his star pupil and daughter, Cassandra Cain. He planned to use her to take down Shiva and anyone else who got in the way.

Black Spider

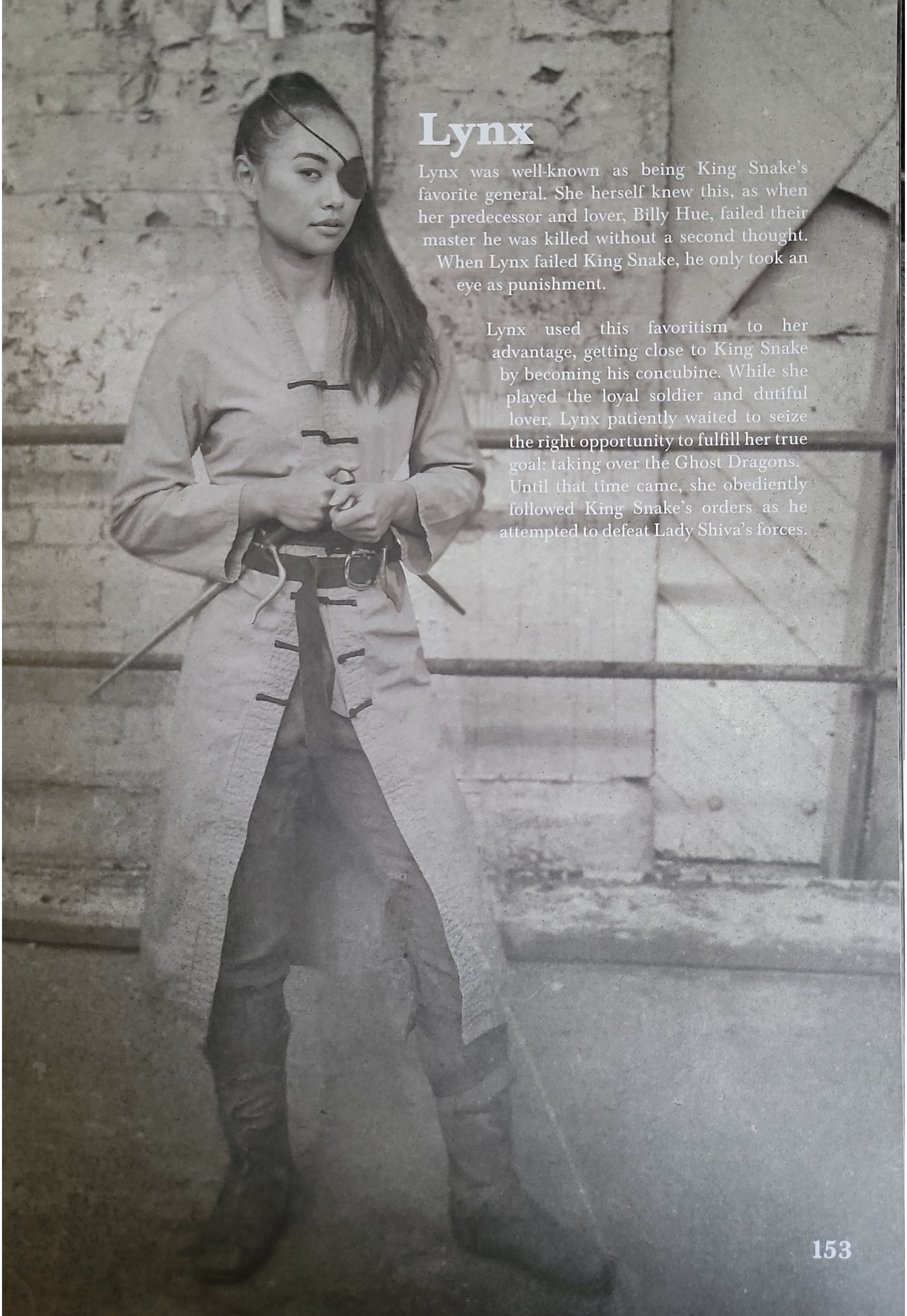
Inspired by Batman, the Black Spider was a man trying to atone for his past. After developing a drug addiction while serving in the Great War, Johnny LaMonica returned home to a worsening habit.

While robbing an old lady so he could pay for his opium addiction, Johnny was stopped by a man on the street. In the heat of the moment, Johnny fatally stabbed this good samaritan – only to realize that this stranger was his father.

Stricken with grief, he fell even deeper into his drug addiction. He contemplated suicide, until one night he saw the Bat. This figure was a revelation to Johnny and it gave him the strength to kick his drug habit.

He'd go on to create his own symbol, the Black Spider, and would dedicate himself to stopping anyone from going down the same dark path he had. To do this, he'd target the drug trade from the source. Unlike the hero who inspired him, the Black Spider was willing to kill and was seen as a murderer by many – including Batman.

He was a wildcard during the Battle for Chinatown, taking out members on all sides.



Lynx

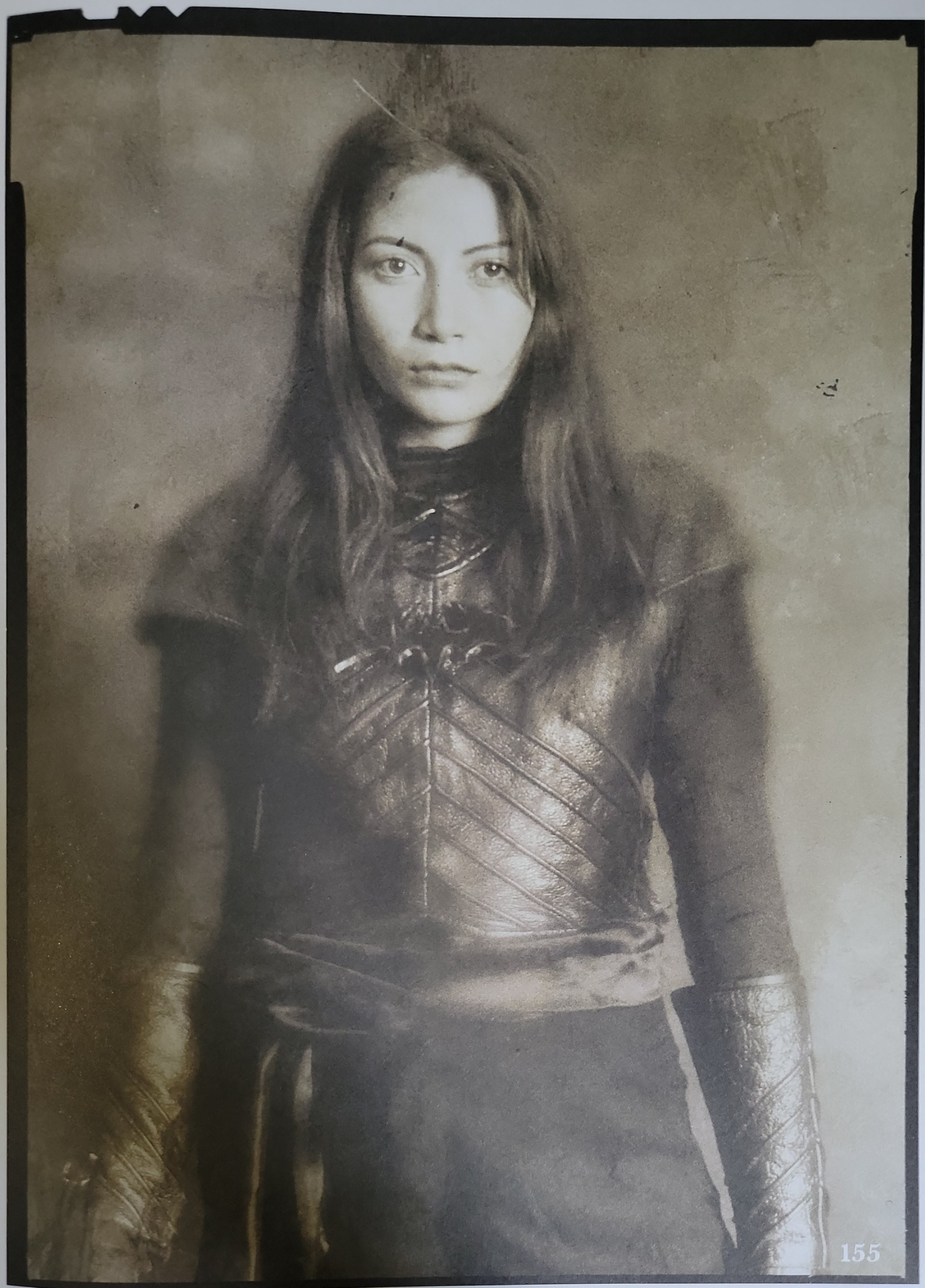
Lynx was well-known as being King Snake's favorite general. She herself knew this, as when her predecessor and lover, Billy Hue, failed their master he was killed without a second thought. When Lynx failed King Snake, he only took an eye as punishment.

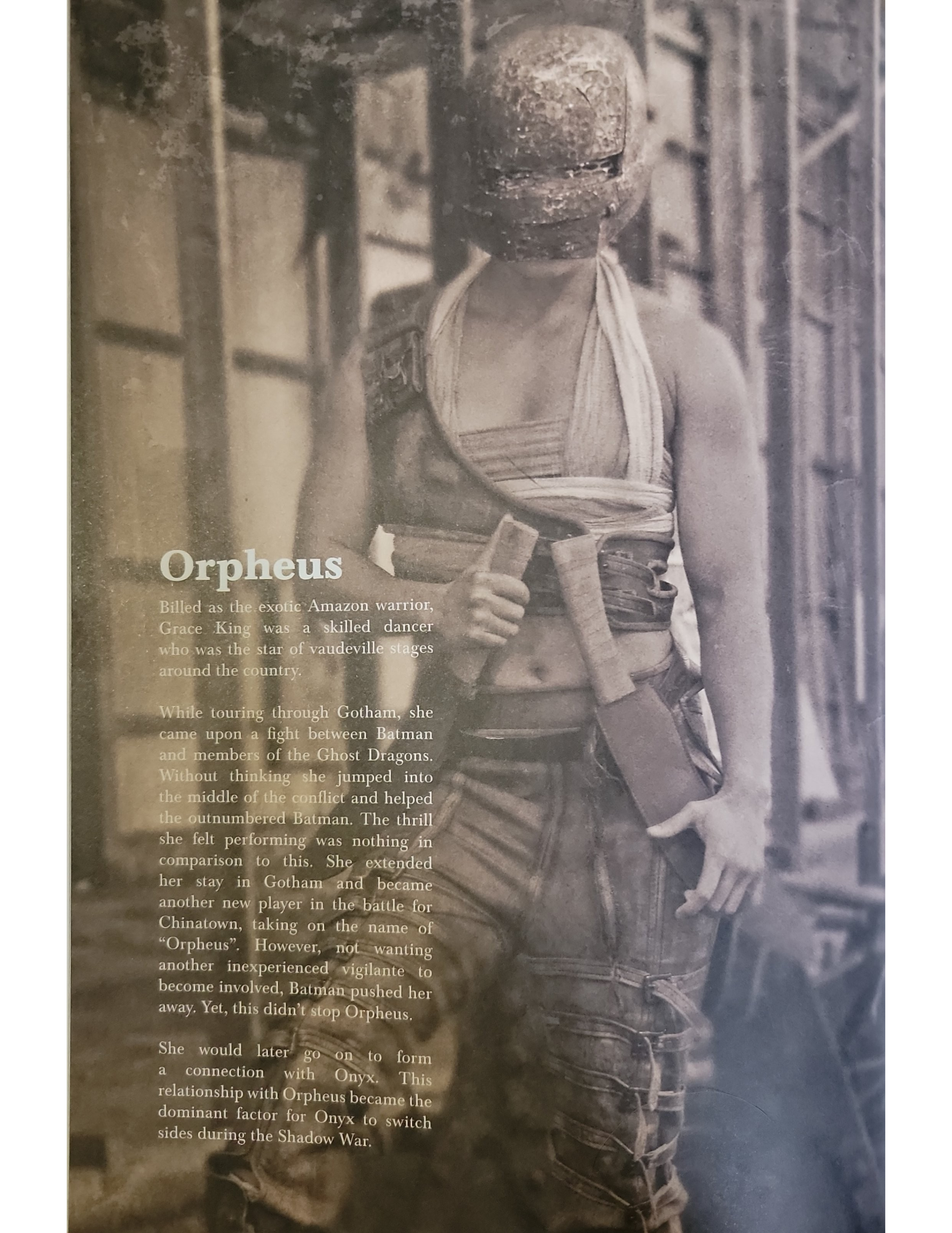
Lynx used this favoritism to her advantage, getting close to King Snake by becoming his concubine. While she played the loyal soldier and dutiful lover, Lynx patiently waited to seize the right opportunity to fulfill her true goal: taking over the Ghost Dragons. Until that time came, she obediently followed King Snake's orders as he attempted to defeat Lady Shiva's forces.

Black Bat

Cassandra Cain came from an attempt to breed the perfect warrior. She was the result of the one-time union between Lady Shiva and David Cain. David wanted a son to raise and sculpt into the ultimate killer. Upon finding out that he had a daughter, he was going to dispose of her and try again, but saw her mother's strength in the baby's eyes. Over the coming years, he trained her harder than he trained anyone. He never taught her how to speak – the only language he wanted her to understand was that of the body. She could read a person's physical intent before they made any movement. At the age of 16, she was already on par with the best martial artists in the world, including the Dark Knight.

Cassandra arrived in Gotham to kill Lady Shiva under orders from her father, but instead found out the truth about her parents. Learning that her mother was just as cruel as her father, Bruce offered her another life outside the destructive and hurtful world of her family. She took on the mantle of the "Black Bat".





Orpheus

Billed as the exotic Amazon warrior, Grace King was a skilled dancer who was the star of vaudeville stages around the country.

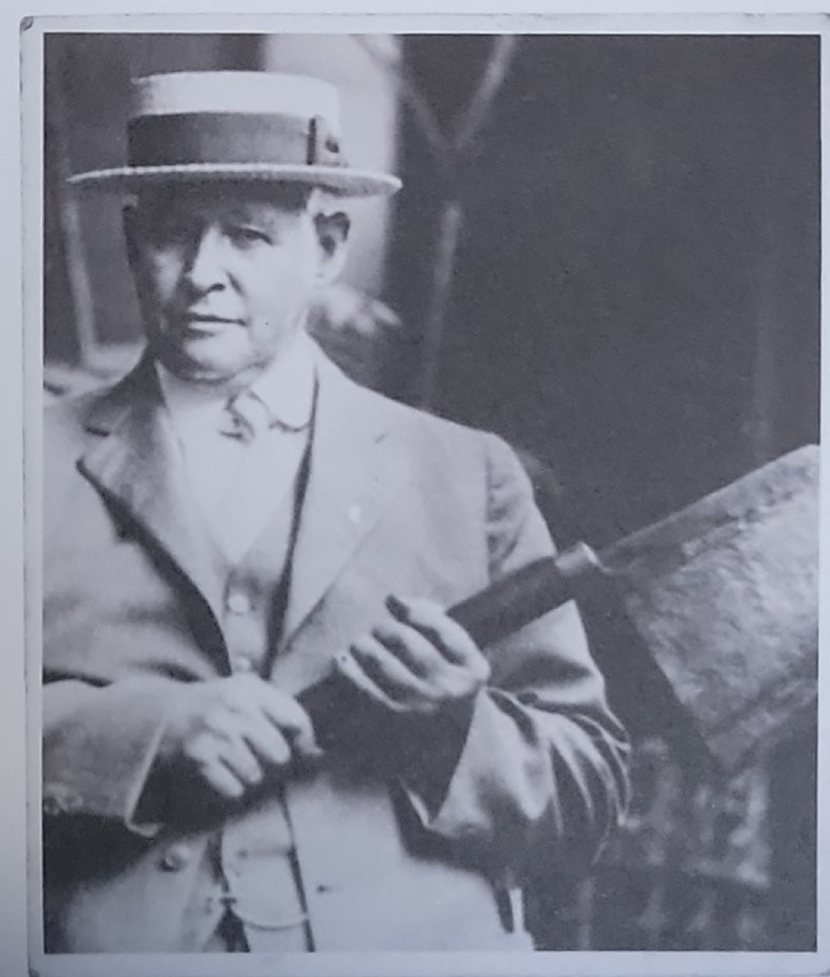
While touring through Gotham, she came upon a fight between Batman and members of the Ghost Dragons. Without thinking she jumped into the middle of the conflict and helped the outnumbered Batman. The thrill she felt performing was nothing in comparison to this. She extended her stay in Gotham and became another new player in the battle for Chinatown, taking on the name of "Orpheus". However, not wanting another inexperienced vigilante to become involved, Batman pushed her away. Yet, this didn't stop Orpheus.

She would later go on to form a connection with Onyx. This relationship with Orpheus became the dominant factor for Onyx to switch sides during the Shadow War.

BELOW: Weapons seized by the Gotham City Police Department.

Batman struggled to fight a war on two fronts and despite not wanting to take sides, he saw that King Snake was the worst of the two. The Dark Knight formed a short-term alliance to help Lady Shiva, which helped turn the tide on King Snake and the Ghost Dragons. King Snake left Gotham with plans to return, but he would never get the chance as he would eventually be killed by his own men.

Batman would later ask Lady Shiva to return the favor during the Shadow War.



ABOVE: Police officer Larry Lance holding up a confiscated hatchet.

LEFT: Gotham City's Chinatown.

ABOVE: The Owl Mask worn by members of the Court Of Owls.
RIGHT: Members pray to a statue of Moloch.

The Court Of Owls

The Court of Owls was initially formed by a collection of Southern slave owners who, after realizing they were on the losing side, migrated north near the end of the Civil War.

Upon arriving in Gotham, this secret society formed under the public guise of the Owl Creek Country Club.

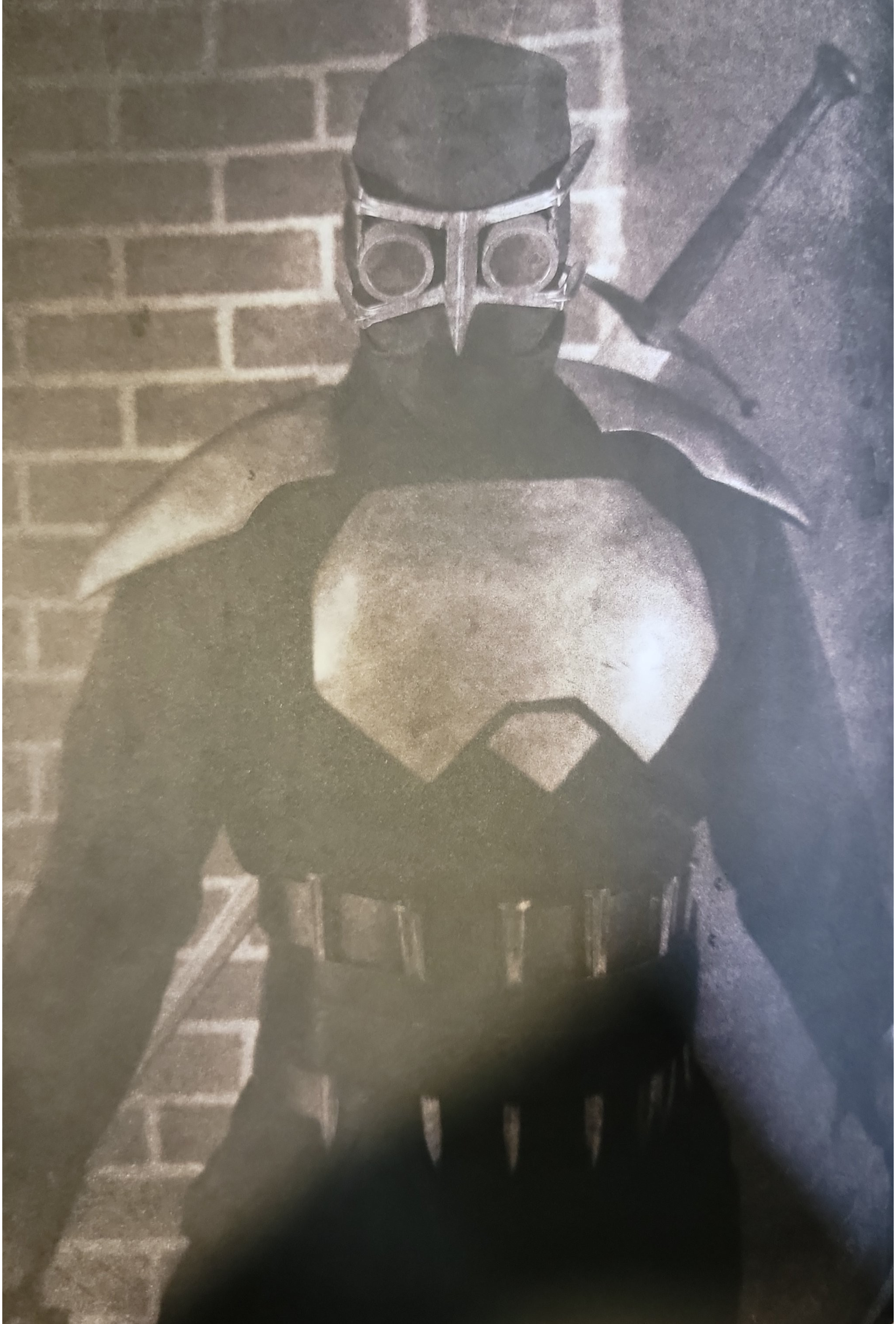
Built from a mix of European traditions and new world ambition, the Court took the owl god Moloch as their symbol, holding elaborate ceremonies and rituals to appease this idol.

It didn't take long for the Court to infiltrate all aspects of Gotham's political, economic and manufacturing systems. They had no trouble bringing in new members to boost their ranks, and were white supremacists in the truest form.

They'd even going as far as supporting the emerging Nazi party prior to them taking power in Germany. This itself was not uncommon, as many rich white Americans, like Henry Ford, were also sponsors of the evolving Third Reich.

At one point the Court wielded so much influence that they were able to hide Moloch on the dollar bill. It took years for the Dark Knight to confirm the true nature of the Court and even longer to disband them. Anyone who dared to speak out against the secret society would meet their end at the hand of the Court's personal assassin, Talon.

"Beware The Court of Owls, that watches all the time,
ruling Gotham from a shadowed perch, behind granite and lime.
They watch you at your hearth, they watch you in your bed,
speak not a whispered word of them, or they'll send the Talon for your head."



Talon

"Talon" was a title given to a group of African-American men who had been conditioned to serve the Court of Owls. During the day, the Court used these men to maintain their club as groundskeepers. Under the cover of night, the Talons were used as assassins to keep the interests of the Court protected.

The horrors committed by them and to them would break most men, but the Talon had no choice in the matter. Even though slavery ended with the Civil War, no other word could be used to describe the situation. Raised and conditioned from infancy, the Talon were regularly beaten and reminded they weren't free men. They were constantly told that they were property of the Court.

The last Talon was able to break his conditioning and help Batman bring an end to the Court's tyranny. Not much is known about what happened to the last Talon after he took back his freedom. We can only hope he found peace, of which he'd been previously denied.

Silver St. Cloud

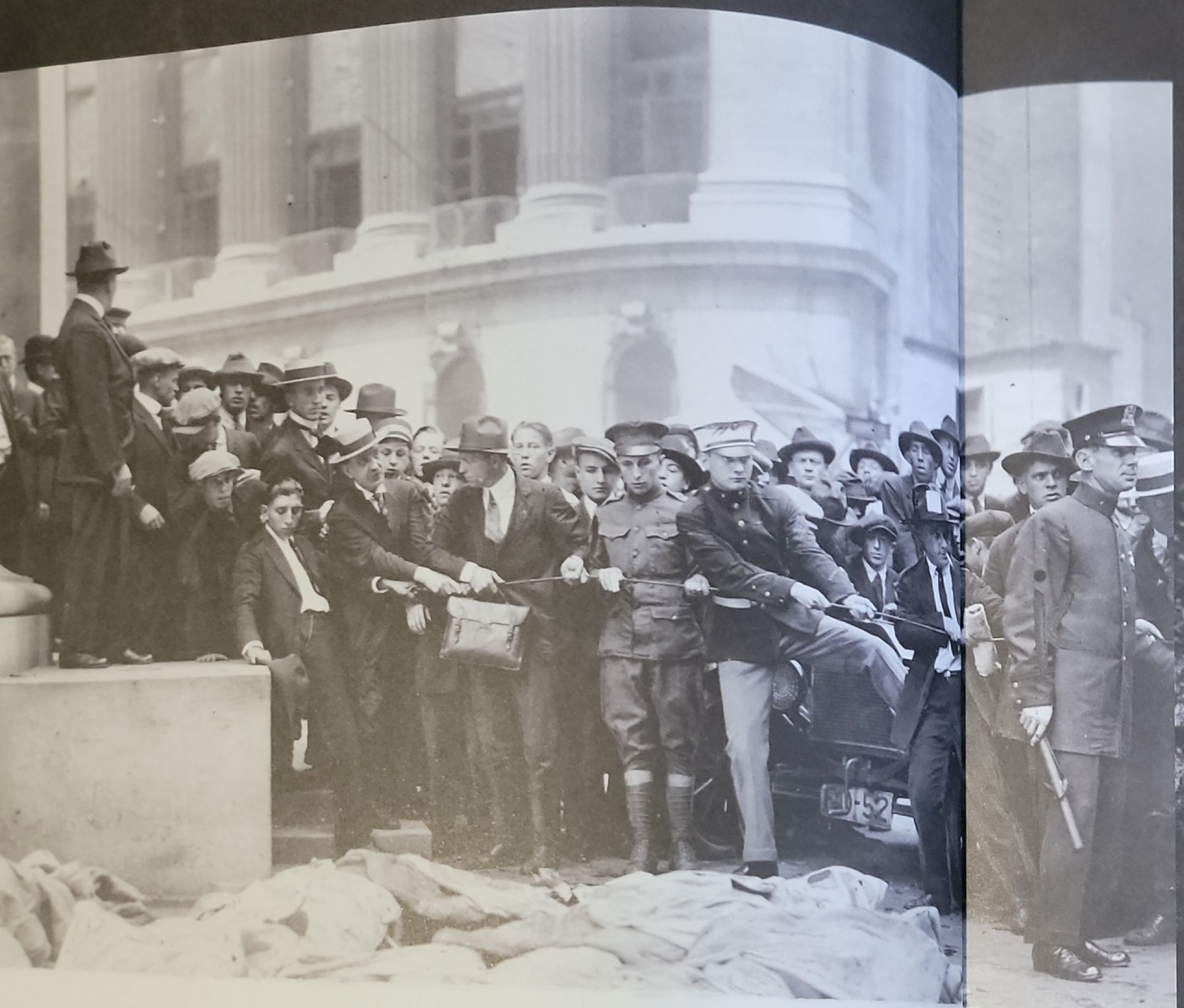
A socialite and master manipulator, above all else Silver St. Cloud was a survivor. Born into a nunnery, her teenage mother died giving birth to her. Silver would be raised in an orphanage, but ran away at age thirteen.

The years that followed were a constant struggle that Silver barely managed to survive, living on the streets, meal to meal. When she turned seventeen, Silver was employed at the Owl Creek Country Club as a housekeeper. It was there she witnessed how the upper class lived. The job gave her access to their rooms, and also the private information of some of the most influential people in Gotham.

For the next 18 months, she saved every cent, while slowly reinventing herself as Silver St. Cloud. This new Silver debuted herself at the Country Club's annual ball, using her entire savings on the gown alone.

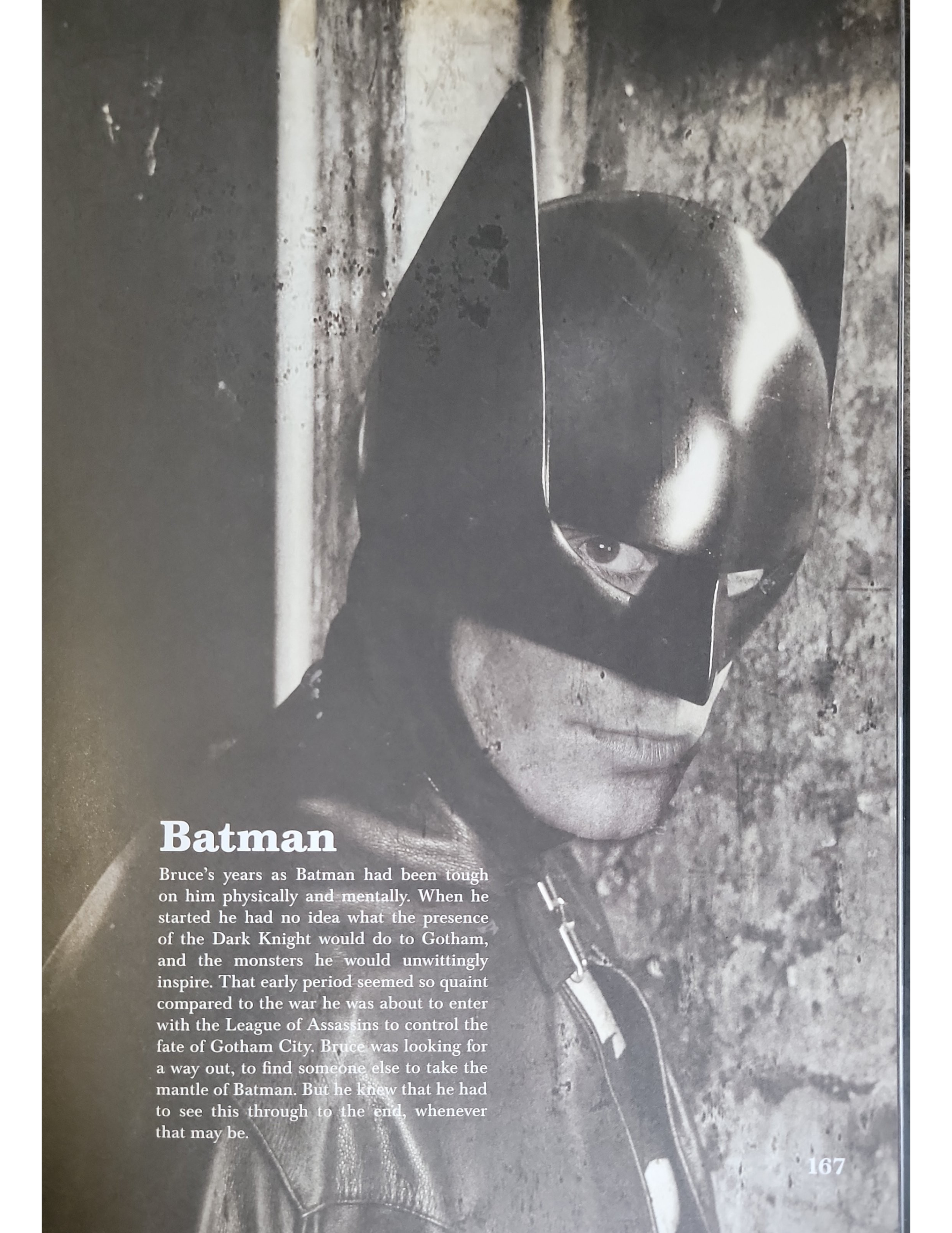
Despite the gamble, her hard work paid off. Even though these were the same people she had been cleaning up after for the past year-and-a-half, not one of them recognized her. Using the information she had collected, it didn't take Silver long to become part of that world. She soon became an invaluable person to Gotham's high society. Silver and Bruce would have a brief romantic period, but they both had too many secrets.

Silver would do whatever was needed to get what she wanted. Her intelligence and sexuality were merely tools for blackmailing and manipulating others, so she could keep the new lifestyle she had quickly become accustomed to.



1935 - 1936

Gotham's Shadow War



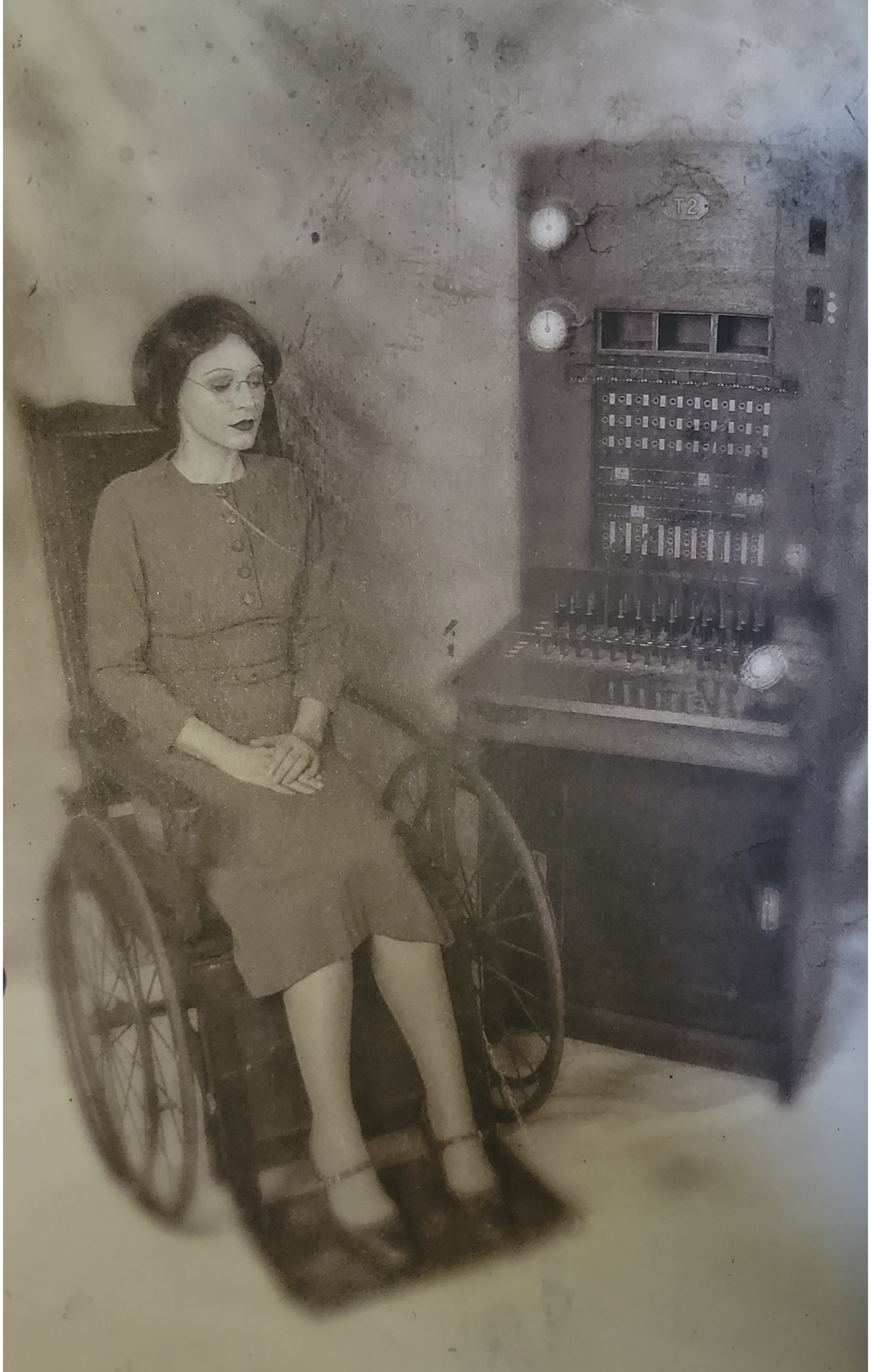
Batman

Bruce's years as Batman had been tough on him physically and mentally. When he started he had no idea what the presence of the Dark Knight would do to Gotham, and the monsters he would unwittingly inspire. That early period seemed so quaint compared to the war he was about to enter with the League of Assassins to control the fate of Gotham City. Bruce was looking for a way out, to find someone else to take the mantle of Batman. But he knew that he had to see this through to the end, whenever that may be.

Robin III
Tim Drake

Tim Drake was the third and oldest of the Robins. He started his journey into crime-fighting as an avid reader of the Sherlock Holmes novels. This admiration he had for the detective led to his fascination with observation, forensic science, and logical reasoning. He used those tools to deduce that Batman's secret identity was Bruce Wayne.

After the death of Jason Todd, Bruce was reluctant to take on another young partner, but Tim proved himself as a hero and a great detective on several occasions. Batman would come to trust in his abilities so much that Tim would operate independently, doing the legwork of investigating and building cases.


T2

Oracle

Barbara Gordon, once the high-flying Batgirl, paid the price for her superhero ambitions. One night while visiting her father, there was a knock at the door. Barbara went to see who the late-night visitor could be, and as she answered she saw the haunting pale smile of the Joker greeting her, followed by the sound of a gunshot.

The Joker had come to Gordon's house to take Jim hostage, as part of his latest plan to torment Batman. He shot Barbara with no idea that he would paralyze her for life, and by doing so, ending Batgirl in the process.

Even though she was confined to a wheelchair, the calling was still there; the desire to help those from the evils of the world. Barbara took the codename "Oracle", and became a very important member of the crime-fighting community, offering investigative and logistics support to the Bat-Team.

The Huntress

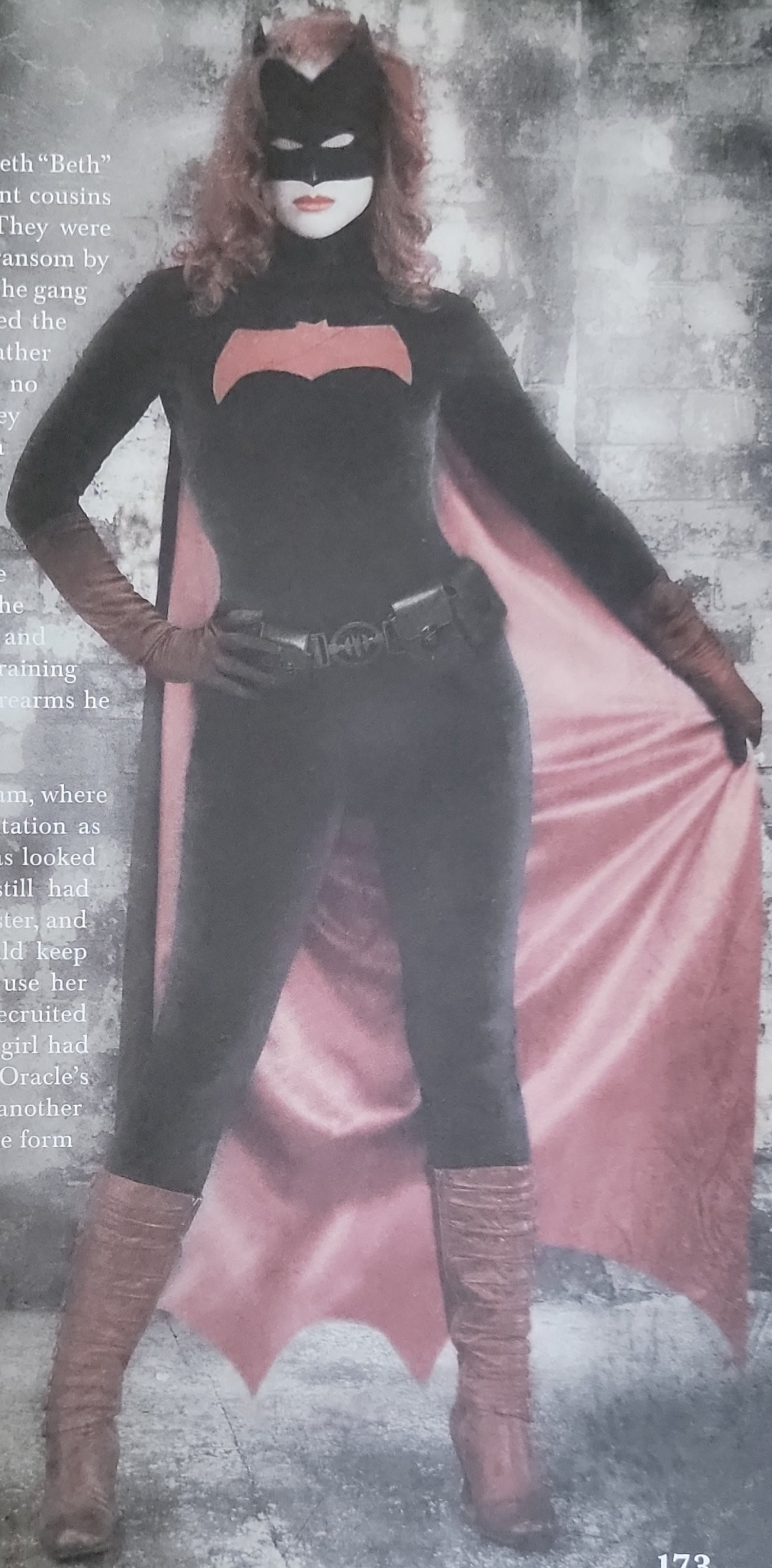
Helena Bertinelli's childhood was that of any normal Italian Catholic girl, but that all changed when her family was killed. Her father was the head of one of the Mafia crime families operating in Gotham, who was betrayed by his own men. Helena was at church when the murders took place and was the only surviving member of her family.

She spent the rest of her childhood in an orphanage working through her pain by devoting herself to God. At one point she held strong ambitions of joining the church as a nun, but could not overcome her desire for revenge. When that desire became an obsession, "The Huntress" was born. Helena tracked down every member of the gang that murdered her family and killed them one by one, each time asking forgiveness for her sins. At first, Batman saw her as just another vigilante who was more interested in vengeance, but over time he witnessed her try to seek real redemption by helping those in need with true justice, and not revenge.

Batwoman

Katherine "Kate" Kane and Elisabeth "Beth" Kane were twin sisters, and distant cousins to Bruce on his mother's side. They were both taken hostage and held for ransom by a professional kidnapping gang. The gang had made an error and kidnapped the wrong targets. When the girl's father couldn't pay the ransom, he had no choice but to go to the police. They found the gang's hideout and a gunfight ensued. Beth was killed in the crossfire, and Kate's father blamed himself and promised that he would never leave Kate so vulnerable ever again. For the remainder of her childhood, Kate and her father traveled the country, training her in every art of combat and firearms he could find.

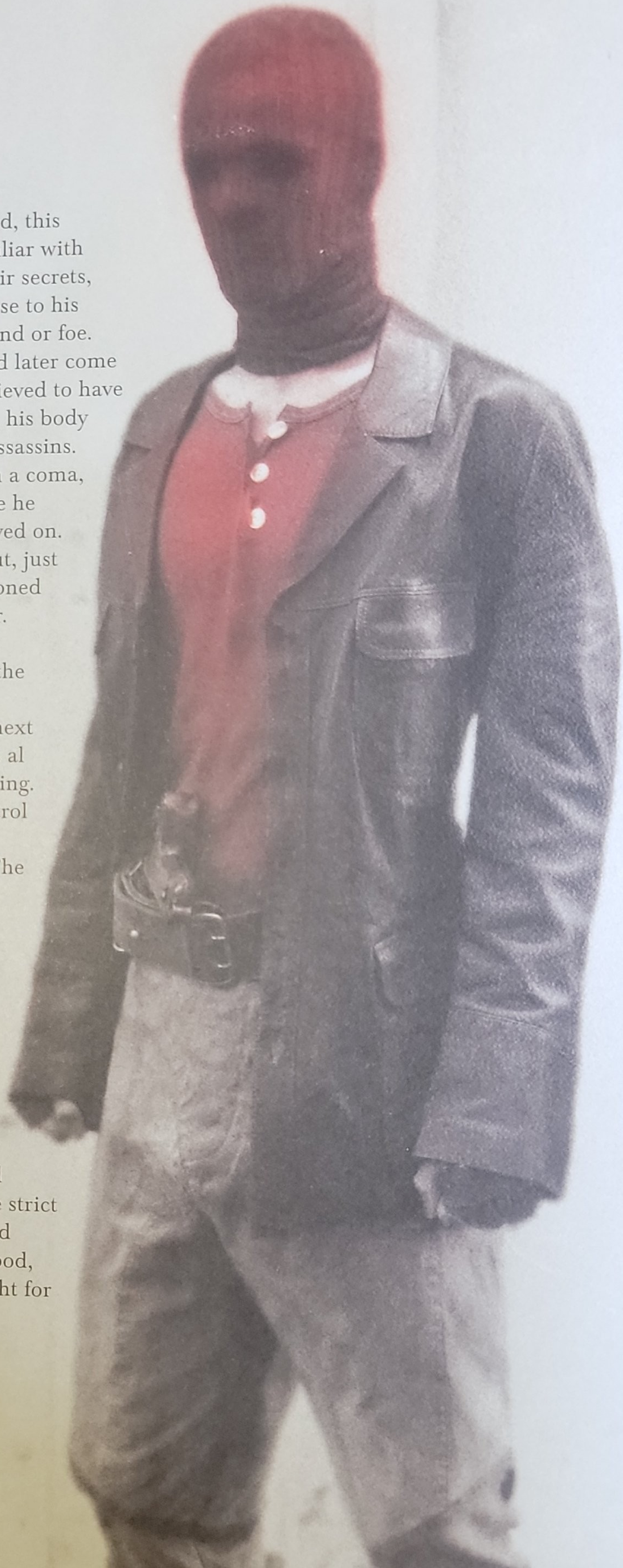
Kate eventually returned to Gotham, where she would hide her sexual orientation as a lesbian, as this way of living was looked down upon at the time. Kate still had nightmares from the loss of her sister, and she found the only way she could keep these bad dreams at bay was to use her skills to help people. Kate was recruited by Oracle to take over where Batgirl had left off. Kate would be inspired by Oracle's former codename, and create another masked identity for Gotham in the form of Batwoman.

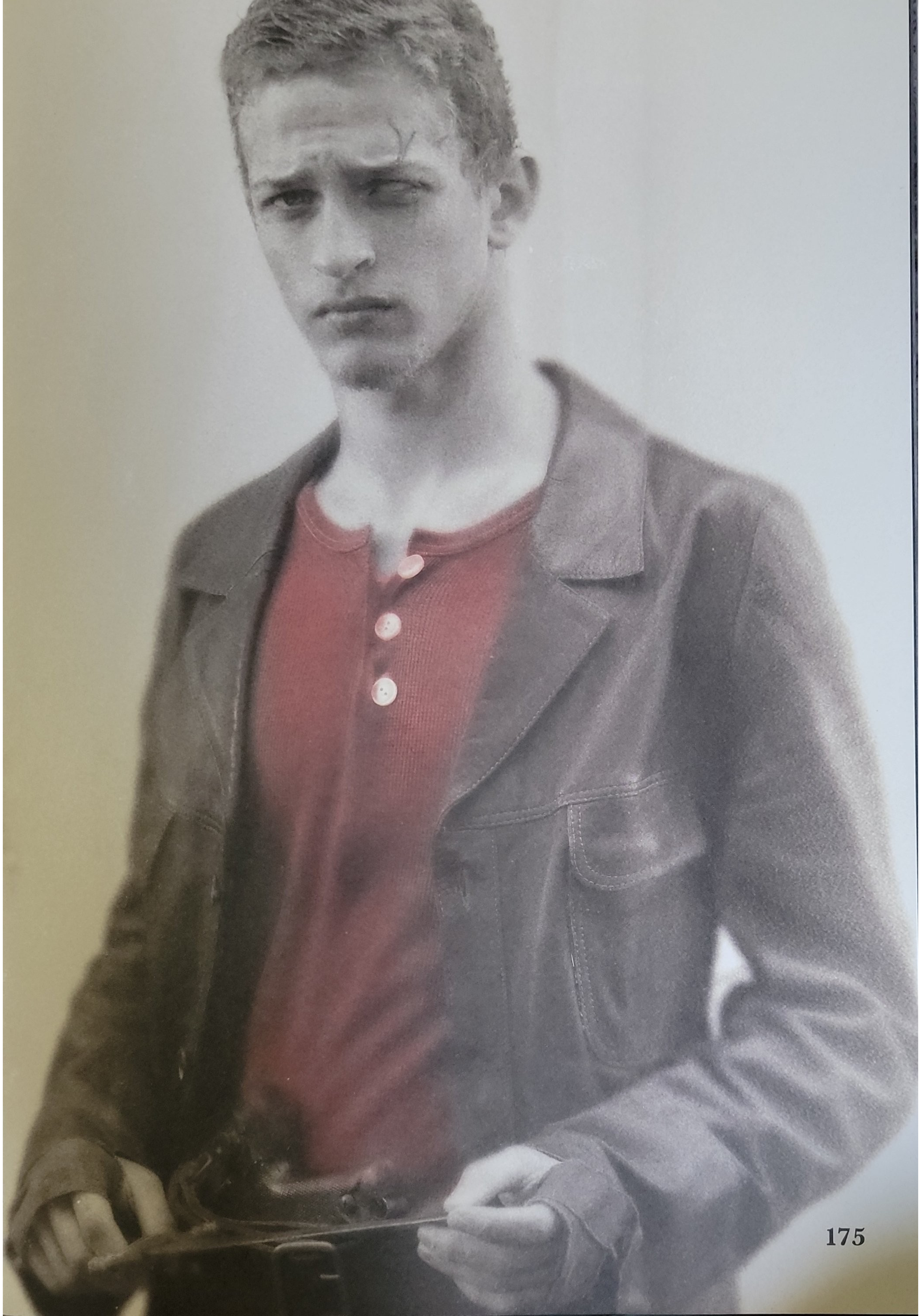


Red Hood

When Red Hood first appeared, this mysterious man was very familiar with the Bat-Team. He knew all their secrets, abilities and kept his cards close to his chest on whether he was a friend or foe. The truth of his identity would later come out. After Jason Todd was believed to have died at the hands of the Joker, his body was found by the League of Assassins. After a long period of being in a coma, he woke to find that the people he considered his family had moved on. Jason had been forgotten about, just like his real family had abandoned him on the streets years earlier.

It was easy for Professor Ojo, the League's master of torture, to brainwash him, He spent the next few years in the service of Ra's al Ghul, who completed his training. Where Bruce had tried to control his anger, the League turned Jason's anger into a weapon. The downside of this was that he was even more uncontrollable and unpredictable than when he was with Batman. It was suspected he may have sustained brain damage from the beating he received at the hands of the Joker. An assassin who had no discipline and was fuelled by emotion was no good to Ra's al Ghul. Jason would outgrow the strict confinements of the League and returned to Gotham as Red Hood, unsure which side he would fight for in the upcoming war.





The Seven Men Of Death

The top assassins of the League were called "The Seven Men of Death". They were rarely seen together, as each member was more than capable of completing missions on their own. To ensure Batman and his comrades would feel the full might of the League, all seven would come together and converge on Gotham during the Shadow War.

BELOW: The ring given to the members of "The Seven Men Of Death".

Malcolm Merlyn
ميرلين

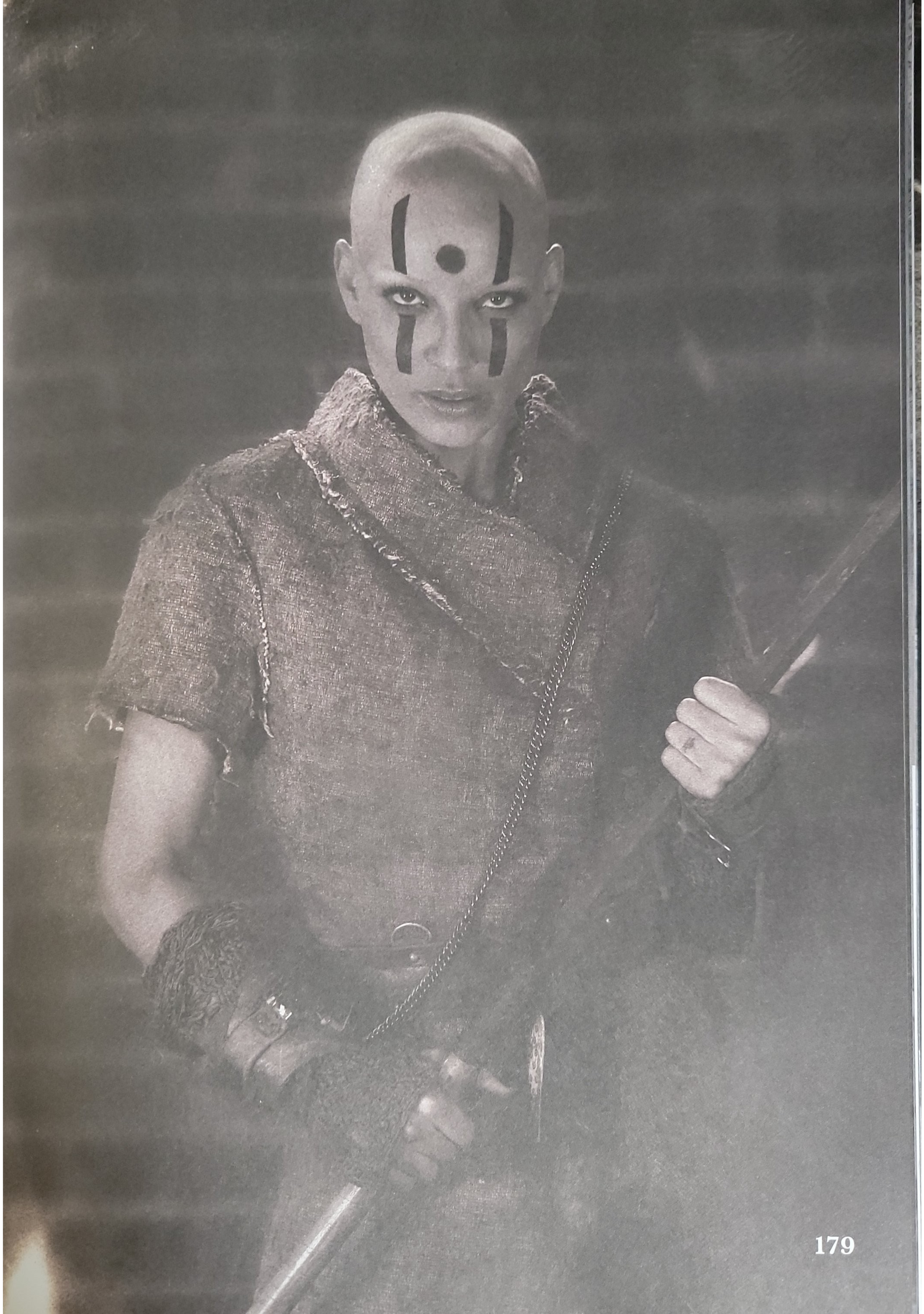
The longest-serving member of the Seven Men of Death, Malcolm Merlyn was better known as the "Dark Archer". He was an expert with the bow and arrow – even Oliver Queen credits him as being the best archer in the world. Malcolm joined the League with David Cain, where they both worked together until Cain went rogue. Incredibly smart, Malcolm had the trust of Ra's al Ghul and was second only to O-Sensei in the League's hierarchy.

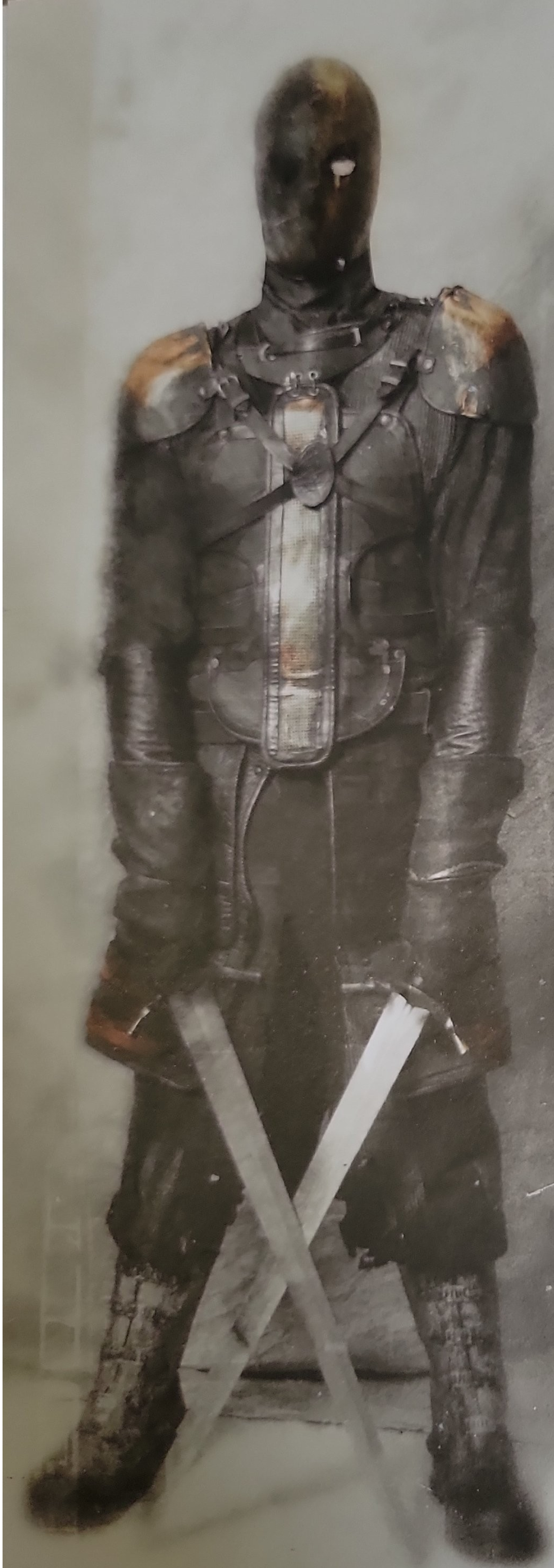
Onyx

أونيكس

Onyx was another member of the League of Assassins, and the only woman to be one of the Seven Men of Death. Onyx knew very little about her own origin, as she was found orphaned in a village on the African coast and was later sold to Ra's al Ghul. As she grew, he saw strength in her that had not been broken by the chains of slavery. Never one to waste potential; Ra's al Ghul started Onyx's training. Over the years she earned her freedom and became a full member of The League of Assassins. She arrived in Gotham before the rest of the League, and it was not long until she came into contact with the Dark Knight. Seeing Batman and his team use their skills not to kill but to fight for those who can't, helped her decide that this was the path she was born to follow.

She would strike up a strong connection with the vigilante Orpheus. When the League eventually arrived, and the Shadow War began, Onyx was one of the first casualties. She died saving Nightwing from Deathstroke's blades. Even though Onyx's life had not been hers, her death was. She chose how she would die and it was an honorable end.



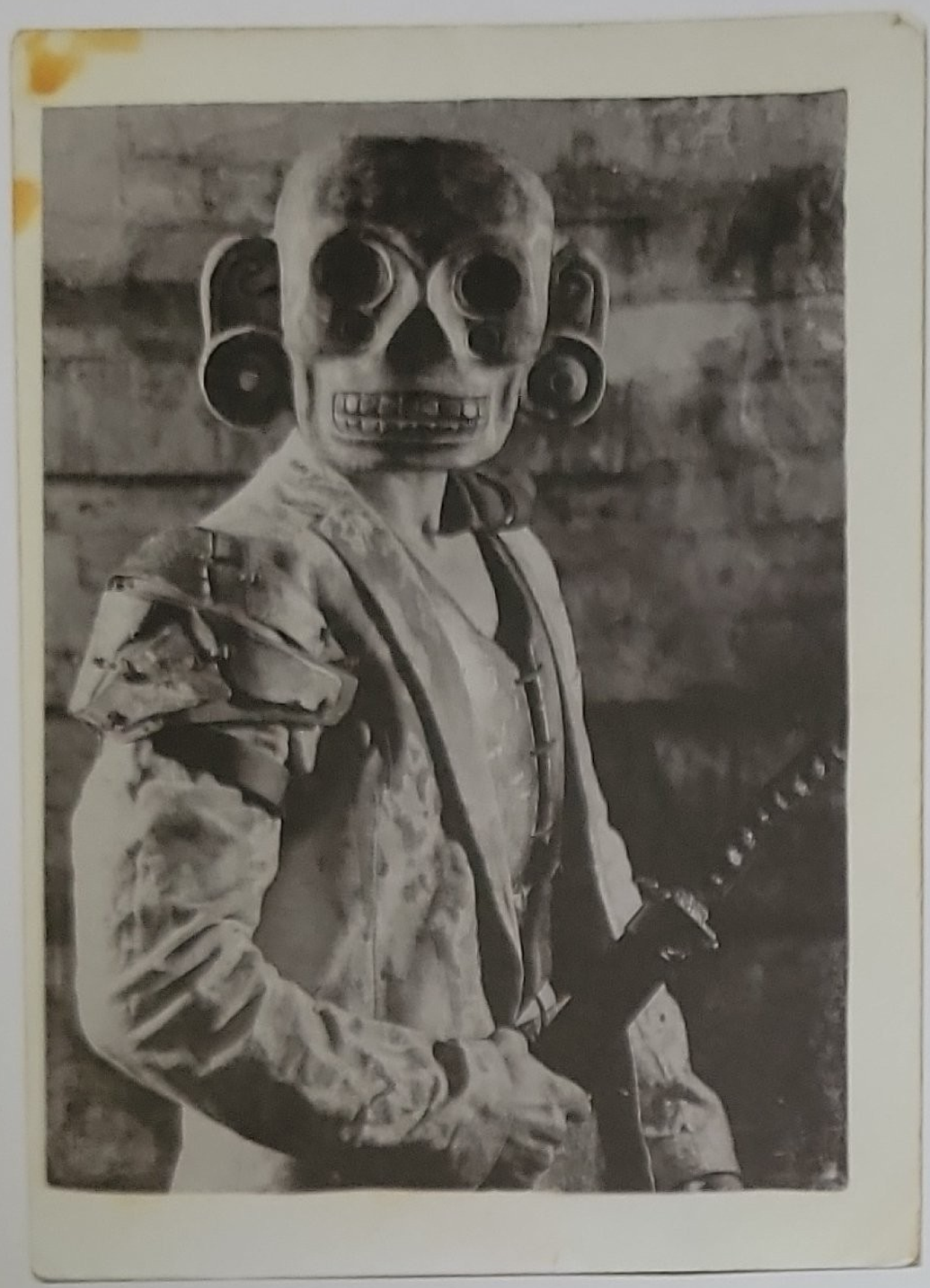


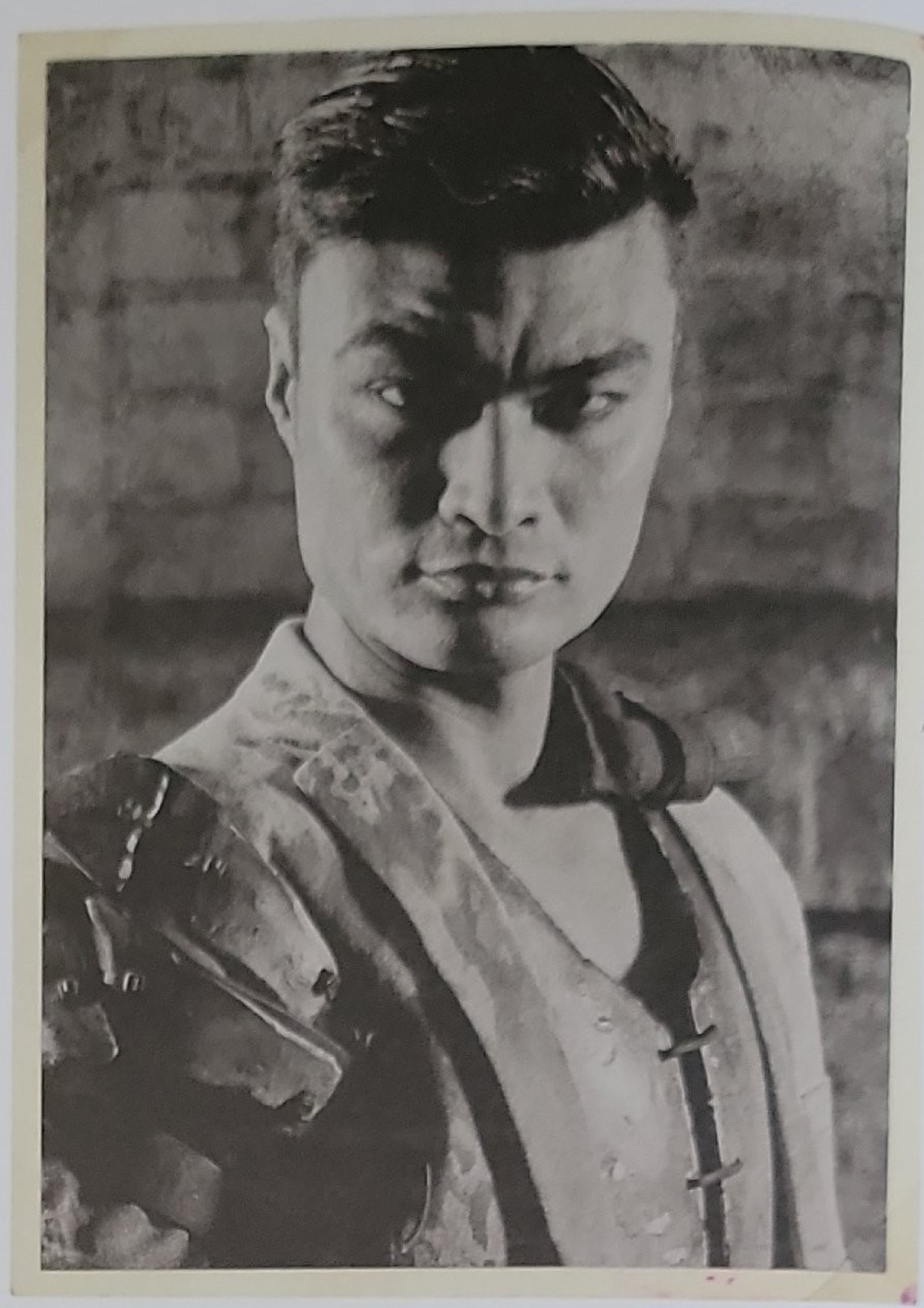
Deathstroke

ديثستروك

Slade Wilson was a natural soldier, being born physically superior and more intelligent than most men. At the age of 16, Slade lied about his age so he could join the army as a way to challenge himself. Even early on, he stood out amongst the other enlisted men. He was handpicked and trained to work as a spy and assassin in the lead-up to the Great War, and served as one of the most highly decorated assets in the history of the U.S. military. Slade was highly regarded for eliminating high-profile targets, foreign and domestic. He was given the codename "Deathstroke".

It was not long until Slade became disillusioned with the government he was fighting for. They only saw him as a weapon and, eventually, that is how he viewed himself. He would sell his skills to the highest bidder, and it did not take long before that highest bidder put him on retainer. That person was Ra's al Ghul. As a member of the League of Assassins and holding the position of one of the Seven Men of Death, he became their top killer among an army of killers. When Interpol was founded in 1923, Deathstroke was at the top of their list of international fugitives.





Silver Monkey

القرد الفضي

A master martial artist and an exiled member of the Brotherhood of the Monkey Fist, Silver Monkey had earned a reputation as the playboy assassin. He joined the League of Assassins after being hired to kill Ra's al Ghul.

After coming face to face with the Demon's Head, he dropped his sword and fell to his knees. Silver Monkey realized he was a warrior with no purpose and that the man in front of him could provide it. And purpose he found, as he'd quickly rise in the League's ranks to become one of the Seven Men of Death.

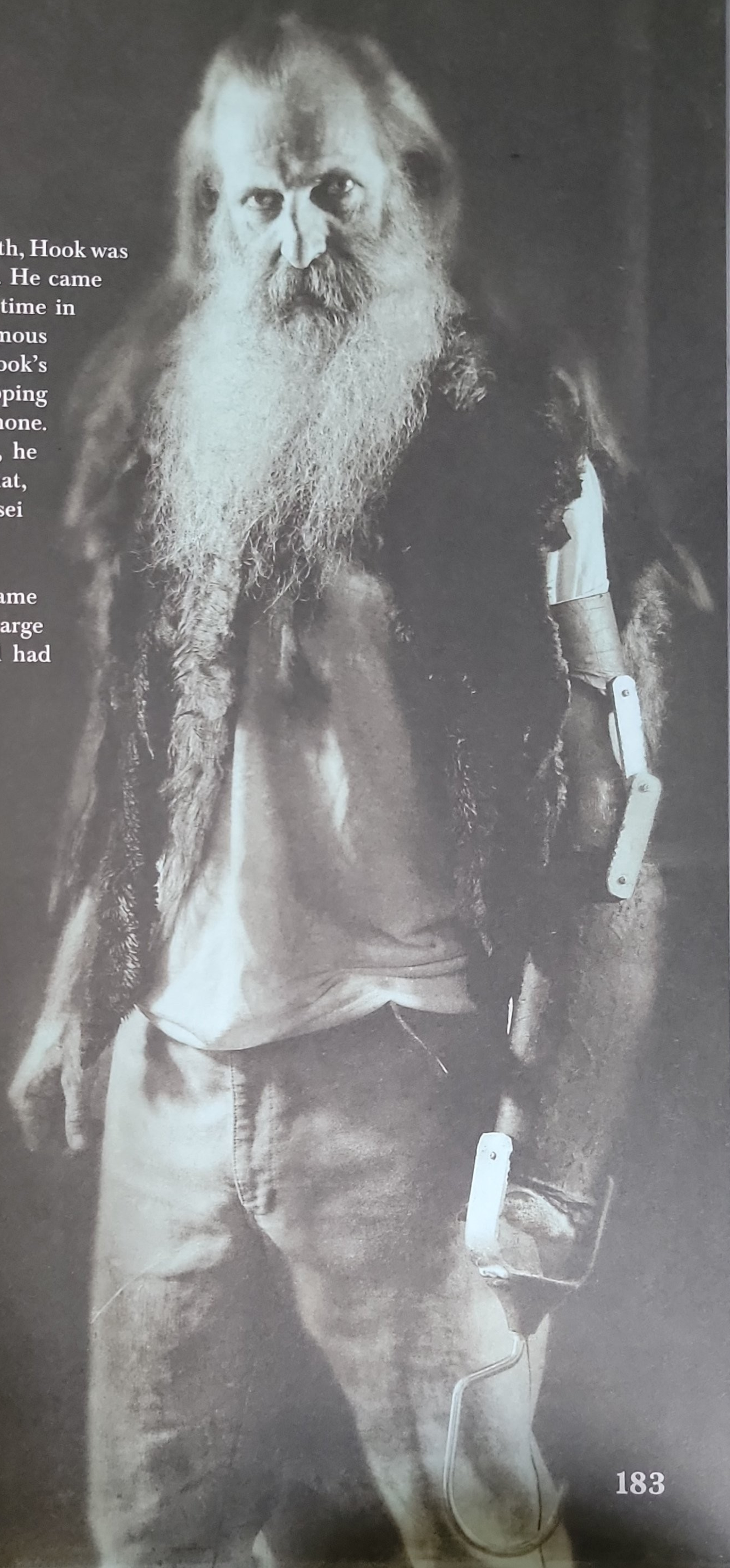
Silver Monkey knew that due to the nature of his work, every day could be his last, so he lived life like it would be.

Hook

الخطاف

One of the Seven Men of Death, Hook was also known as the "Hunter". He came to the League after serving time in jail for the murder of the famous daredevil, Boston Brand. Hook's skills for tracking and trapping his targets were second to none. Throughout his long career, he had only failed once. For that, he paid the price – O-Sensei took his hand.

He turned this mark of shame into an asset by attaching a large metal hook where his hand had once been.



Bronze Tiger

النمر البرونزي

When Bruce trained with the League of Assassins, he wasn't alone. There were two other men training alongside him. Benjamin Turner, also known as the "Bronze Tiger", was one of those men. While they were all evenly matched, Benjamin was by far the most naturally gifted fighter out of the three.

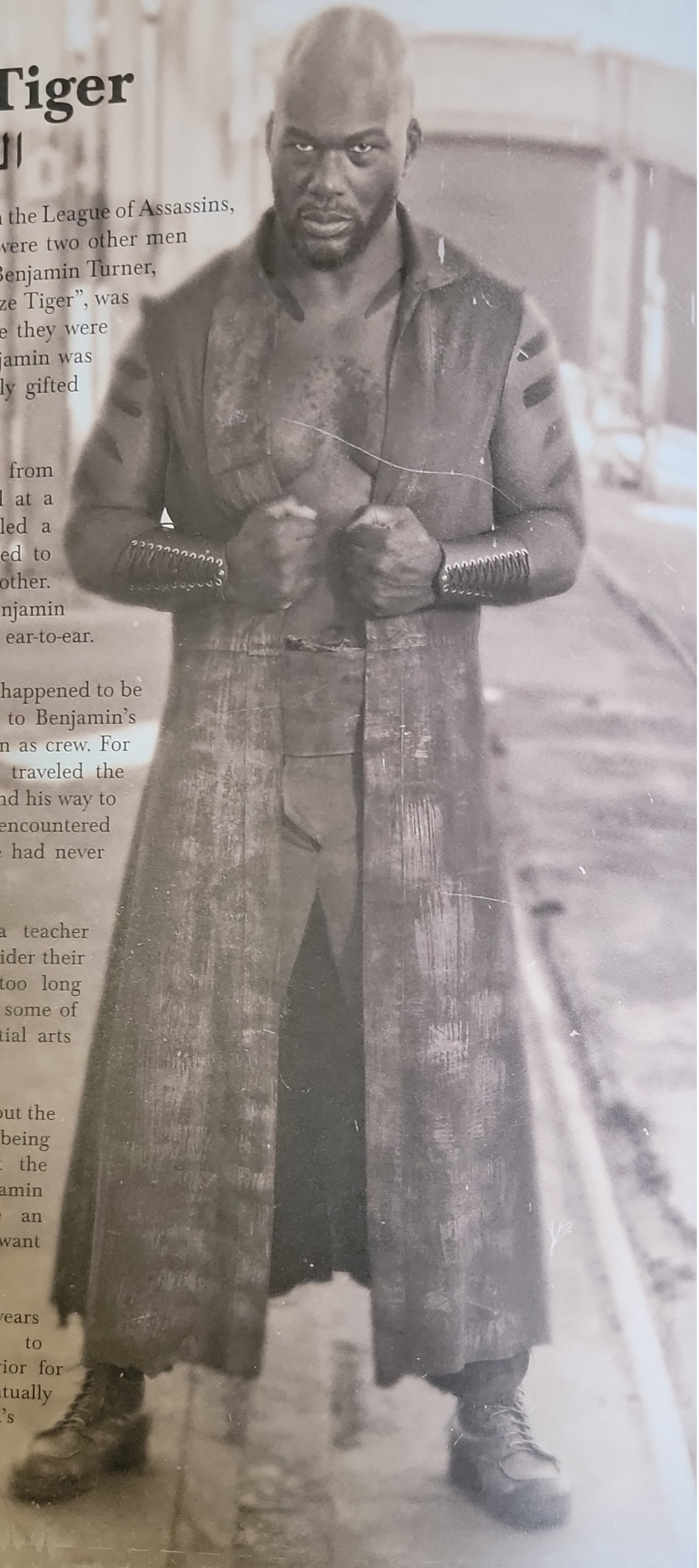
Benjamin was originally from the South, but had fled at a young age after he killed a white man who had tried to have his way with his mother. Overcome with anger, Benjamin had slit the man's throat, ear-to-ear.

A family friend who just happened to be a sailor felt sympathetic to Benjamin's plight, so he took him on as crew. For the next eight years he traveled the world. He eventually found his way to the Far East, where he encountered men fighting in ways he had never seen before.

Benjamin sought out a teacher who would teach an outsider their secrets, and it wasn't too long before he was mastering some of the most advanced martial arts techniques in the world.

He soon heard stories about the best fighters in the world being trained by O-Sensei at the League of Assassins. Benjamin didn't join to become an assassin; he just didn't want his skills to go to waste.

Professor Ojo spent years brainwashing Benjamin to become the perfect warrior for the League, and to eventually become David Cain's replacement as one of the Seven Men of Death.



Professor Ojo

البروفيسور أوجو

The League of Assassins' master of torture, Professor Ojo was the most loyal of the Seven Men of Death.

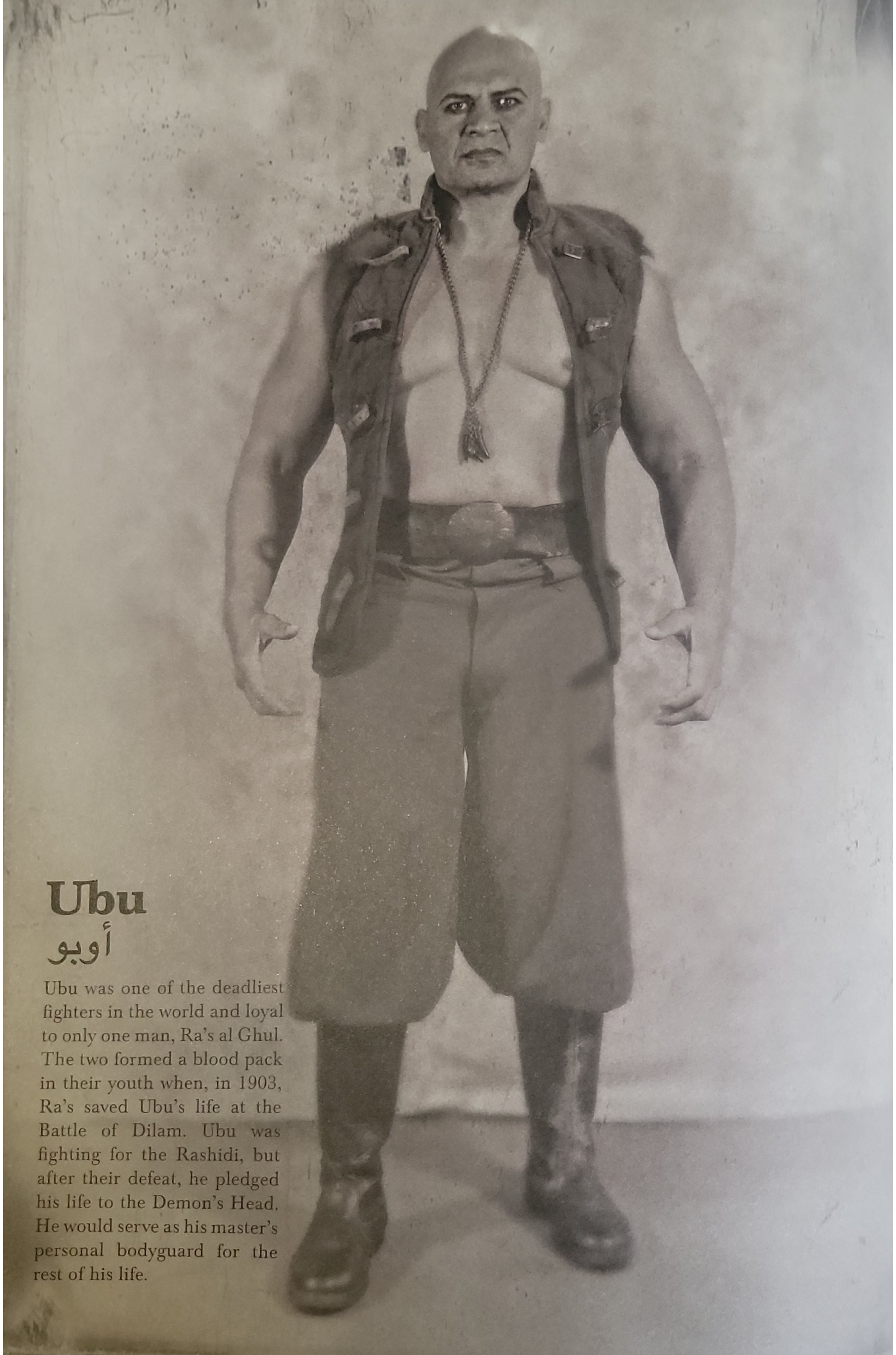
Originally from Spain, he was born without eyes to a poor but hard -working family. His deformity was later linked to radium poisoning that his father and mother were exposed to while working in a factory under poor safety conditions.

While he could have been a burden on his family, Ojo never let his blindness stop him from having vision. He developed skills that allowed him to see past the everyday defenses of those around him, unearthing secrets and weaknesses most others would miss.

In his twenties, Ojo was sought out by the Demon's Head. He had heard of his skills as a truthsayer. Ra's rescued the boy from his humble origins and he soon became one of the League's top generals.

Ojo would become the League's master of interrogation, torture and brainwashing. He would be responsible for the conditioning of Jason Todd and Benjamin Turner.

He believed that his Master was a living god and was destined to save humanity, so to Ojo, the end always justified the means.



Ubu
أوبو

Ubu was one of the deadliest fighters in the world and loyal to only one man, Ra's al Ghul. The two formed a blood pack in their youth when, in 1903, Ra's saved Ubu's life at the Battle of Dilam. Ubu was fighting for the Rashidi, but after their defeat, he pledged his life to the Demon's Head. He would serve as his master's personal bodyguard for the rest of his life.

Nyssa al Ghul

نيسة الغول

Nyssa was the first-born daughter of Ra's al Ghul. She was the product of a night of lust, born from a woman Ra's didn't love. Nyssa didn't meet her father until she was five-years-old, and by then she had developed a cruel streak that she would never lose. Nyssa was still trained and treated, as was her right as a progeny of the Demon's Head.

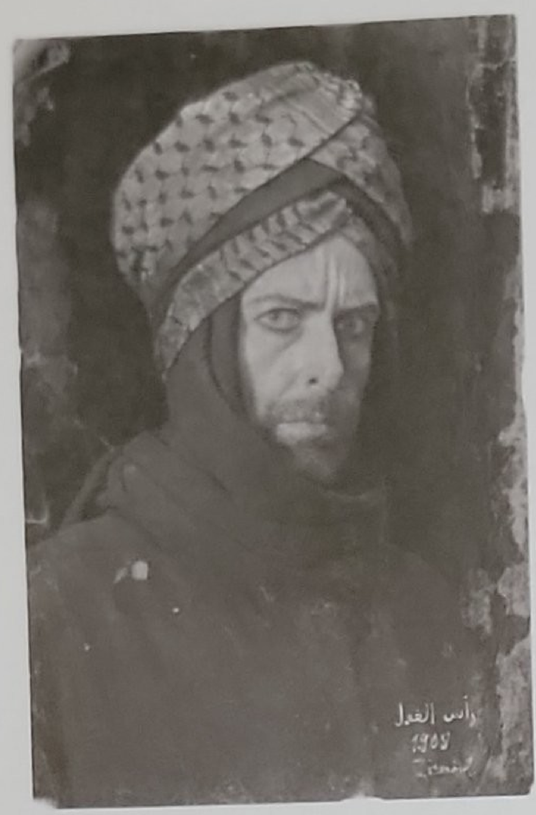
She played the part of the loyal daughter, but was the most ambitious of Ra's children. Jealous of her younger sister, she would love nothing better than to kill Talia's only true love, the Batman.

Talia al Ghul
تاليا الغول
& Damian Wayne
داميان وين

Talia returned one more time to Gotham, and this time she was not alone. She had brought her young son Damian with her. His Arabic name was Ibn al Xu'ffasch ("Son of the Bat"). Bruce did not need to be a detective to see that the boy was his. Even though his looks were that of the Wayne bloodline, his demeanor was that of his grandfather, Ra's al Ghul.

Even Talia had become more like her father, the optimistic young girl was gone, and a dangerous, calculating woman was in her place. Talia knew that it was Damian's choice which path he should take, to join the League or make a life in his father's world.

To make this choice, she decided it would be wise for Damian to spend some time living at Wayne Manor with Bruce. All he knew about his father had come from what he'd read about Bruce's life as both a wealthy playboy and the Caped Crusader. He'd also repeatedly combed over the belongings Bruce left at the League. Taking all the stories he heard as fact, Damian had built up a mythical version of Bruce that the real-life version couldn't compare to. Their relationship as father and son didn't come naturally.



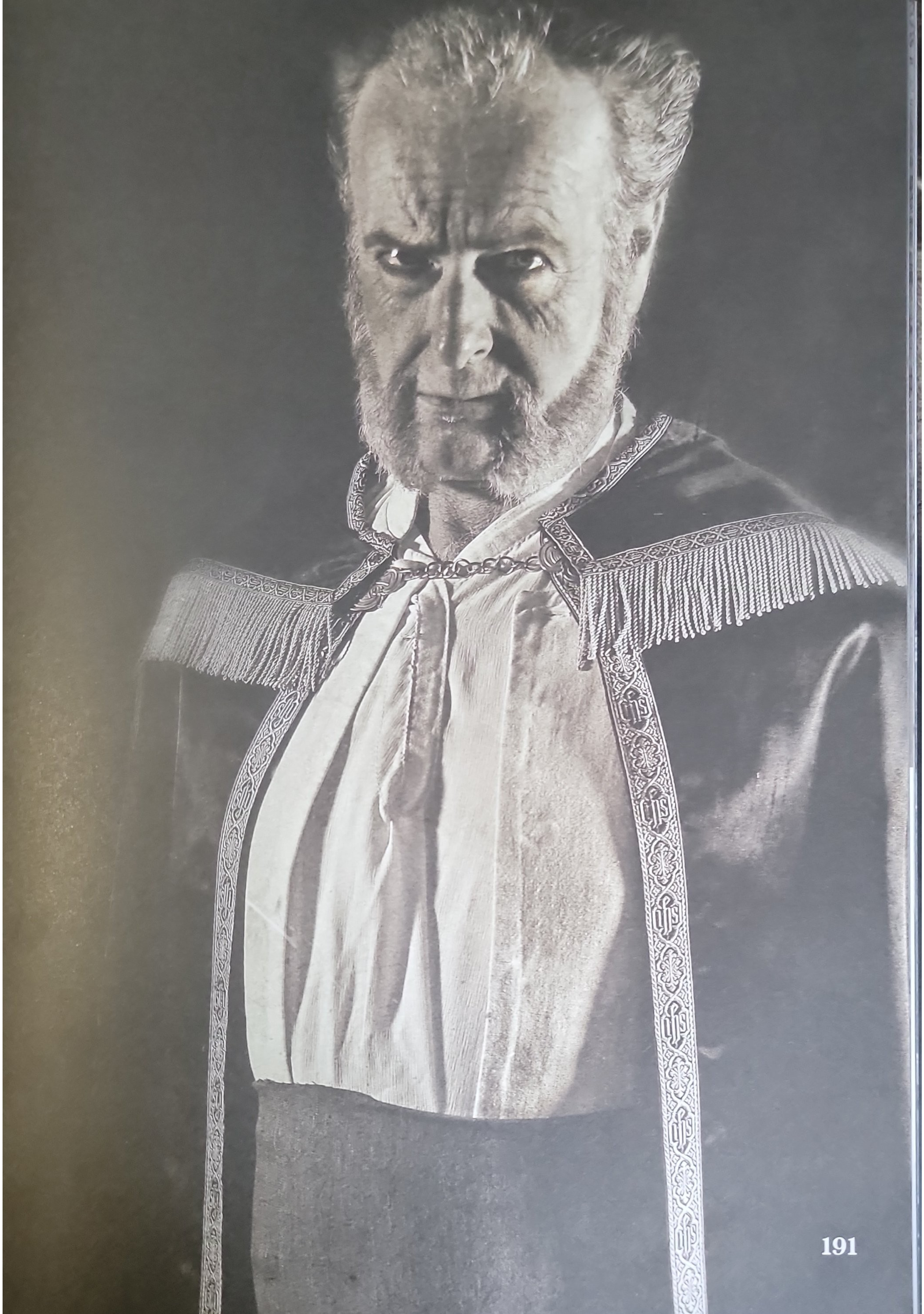
Ra's al Ghul

رأس الغول

Ra's al Ghul ("The Demon's Head") had been shaping history for hundreds of years. You won't find his name in any books, but on the lips and whispers of the people who live in the shadows. Known by many titles throughout the years, most of the truth has been combined and replaced with legends and rumors. It is believed the first mention of him was by Marco Polo where he was referred to as the old man on the mountain, Hassan-e Sabbāh.

Many believed he was immortal, others thought the title was passed down every generation to a new Demon's Head. Whatever the truth, the facts were that he was the founder and leader of the League of Assassins. They had been manipulating the political structure in the Middle East and Asia since the Crusades. He played major roles in the fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Boxer Uprising.

His attention had expanded from the empires of the old world, with eyes aimed squarely at the U.S.A. who had proven in the Great War they would be the next power to control humanity's future. Ra's welcomed Bruce Wayne into his world unlike any of his previous protégés, even encouraging the romantic feelings he held for his daughter Talia. His vision was to have Bruce help the League infiltrate the political and social classes of America, and for one day Bruce to take over as the new master of the League. Once Bruce understood he was being groomed for the life of a warlord, he escaped the League. It wasn't until years later that Ra's al Ghul finally brought the League of Assassins stateside. His first stop? Gotham City.



The Shadow War

Batman's crime-fighting activities would reach a pinnacle from November 1934 to March 1936, during a city wide war between the League of Assassins and the Dark Knight's vigilante team.

Costumed warriors took to the rooftops and waged bloody battles to see who could control Gotham. Apart from having an army of highly trained killers, Ra's al Ghul also caused mayhem by breaking out a number of inmates from Arkham Asylum and Black Gate Prison. Batman would be forced to fill his out-numbered ranks with former opponents: Cat Woman, Azrael and Lady Shiva, along with new recruits Red Hood, Onyx and Batwoman joining the fight.

As well as many civilian and police officer casualties, both sides would also take heavy losses. Ra's expertise in taking down empires piece by piece meant he knew the right person to eliminate at the right time to achieve maximum chaos.

Lucius Fox was killed in a car explosion, intended to cripple Wayne Enterprises, the foundation of Batman's infrastructure.

Jason Bard would be burnt alive inside an opium den whilst under the effects of the drug. The fire was believed to be started by the League.

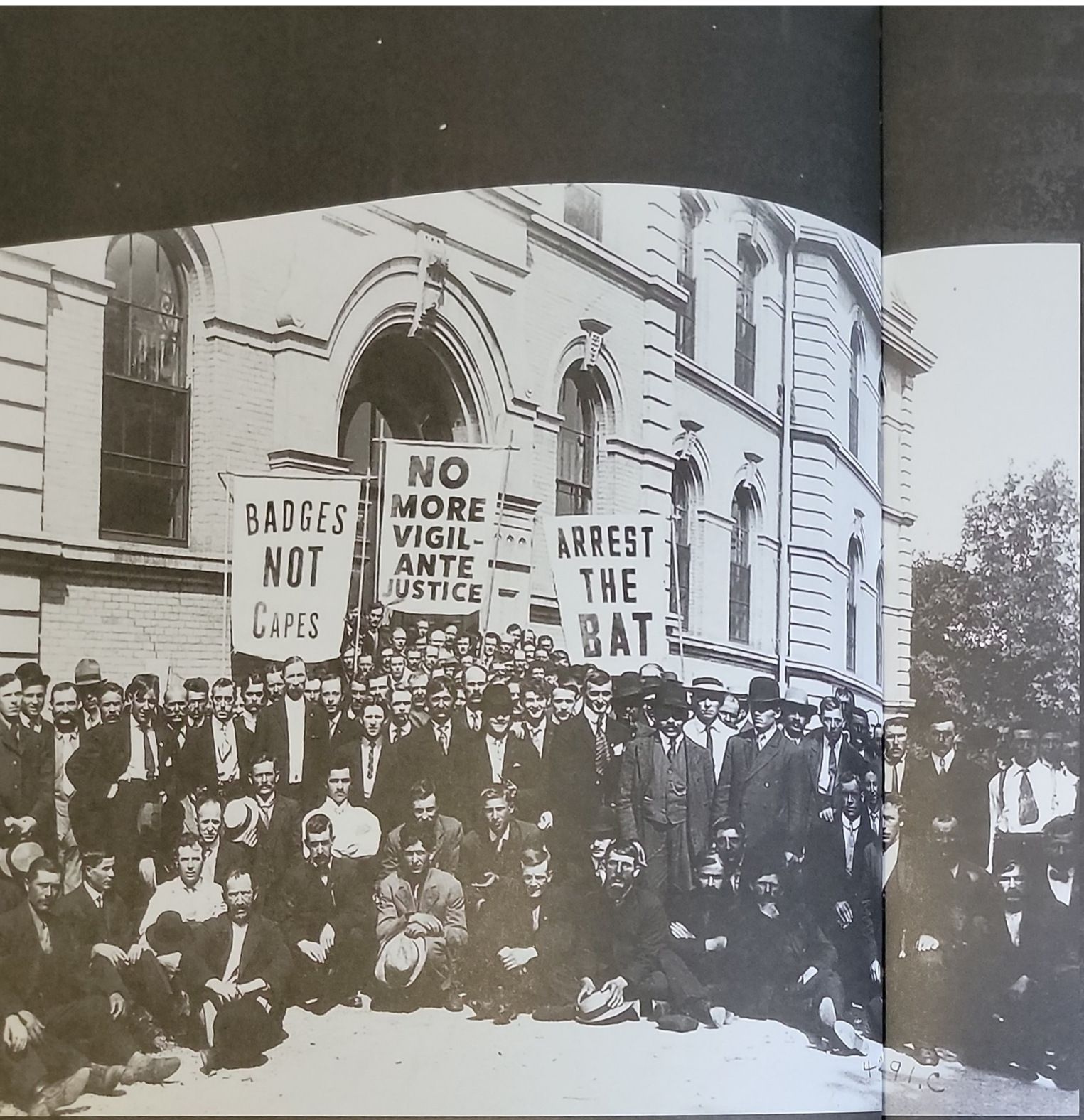
Wildcat would die from the injuries he sustained while fighting members of the Seven Men of Death – but not before killing the Hook.

During the fall of the Batcave, Alfred was seriously injured. Harold and Ace would both die in the line of duty.

Onyx, Cain and Red Hood (not confirmed) were all killed in various battles across the city.

The city was in flames and the streets ran with blood. The police were powerless to stop it. Congress would create a special committee led by a woman named Amanda Waller. She had emergency powers that would allow them to deploy the National Guard to bring the city under control.

It all came to an end when Damian Wayne was forced to make a choice, either his grandfather or his father. He chose to stab Ra's al Ghul, saving Bruce's life. Ra's left Gotham nursing his injuries, while planning to return and fight another day. However, he would never get the chance. The rise of the fascist movement in Europe had turned the world on its head and threatened the scale of power in the old world. The League's objectives pivoted away from Gotham.



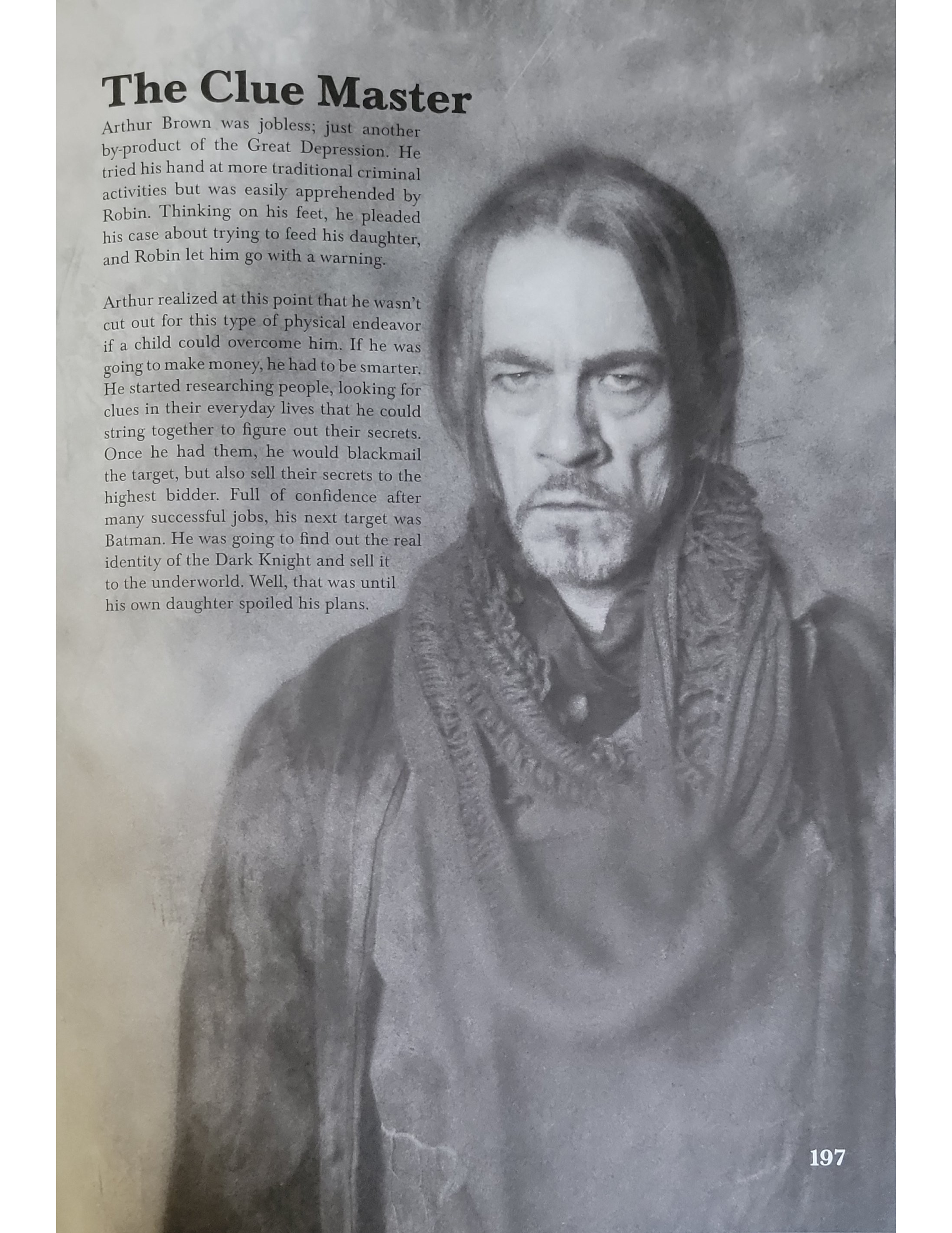
1937 - 1939

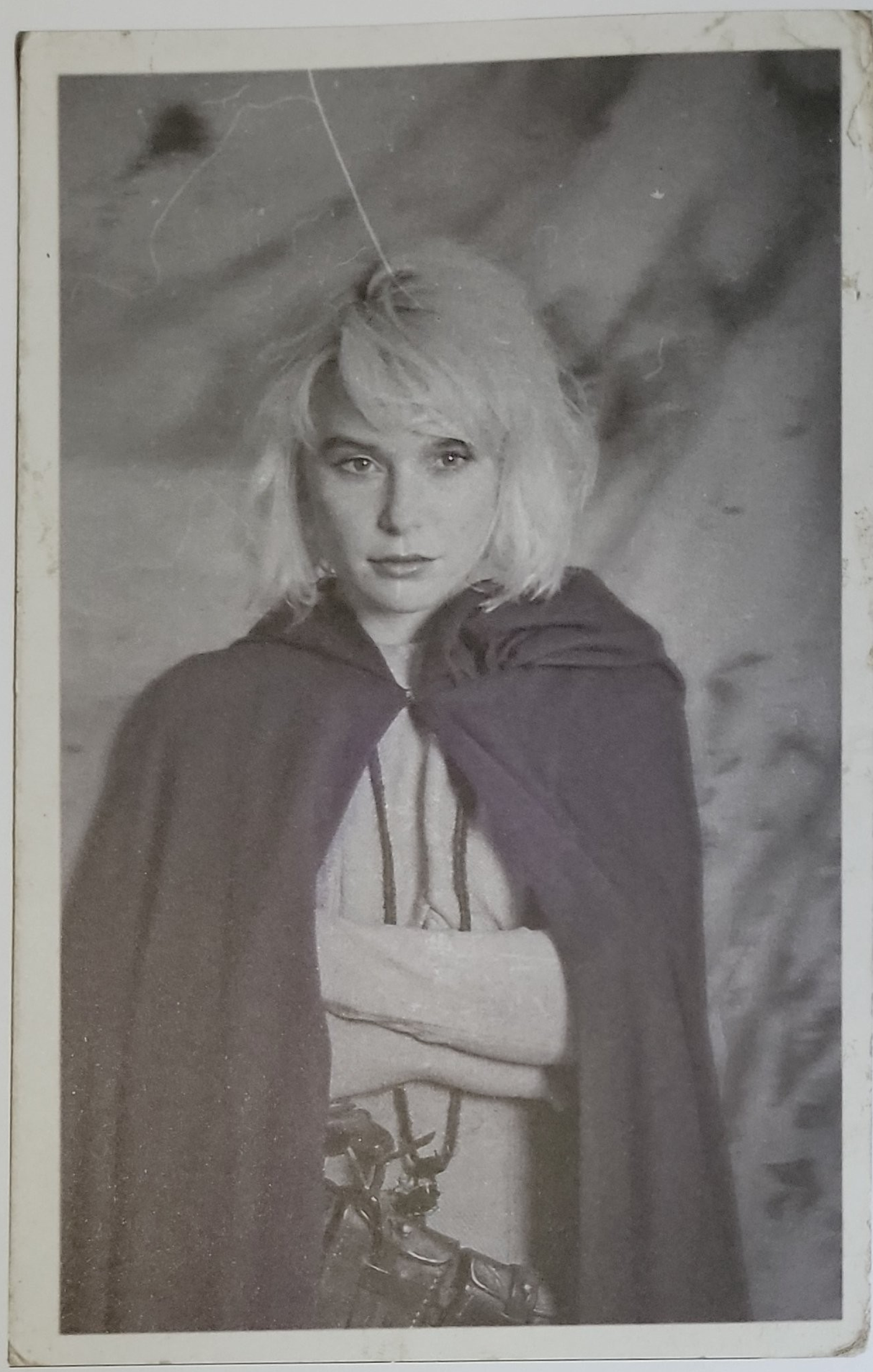
Knight Fall

The Clue Master

Arthur Brown was jobless; just another by-product of the Great Depression. He tried his hand at more traditional criminal activities but was easily apprehended by Robin. Thinking on his feet, he pleaded his case about trying to feed his daughter, and Robin let him go with a warning.

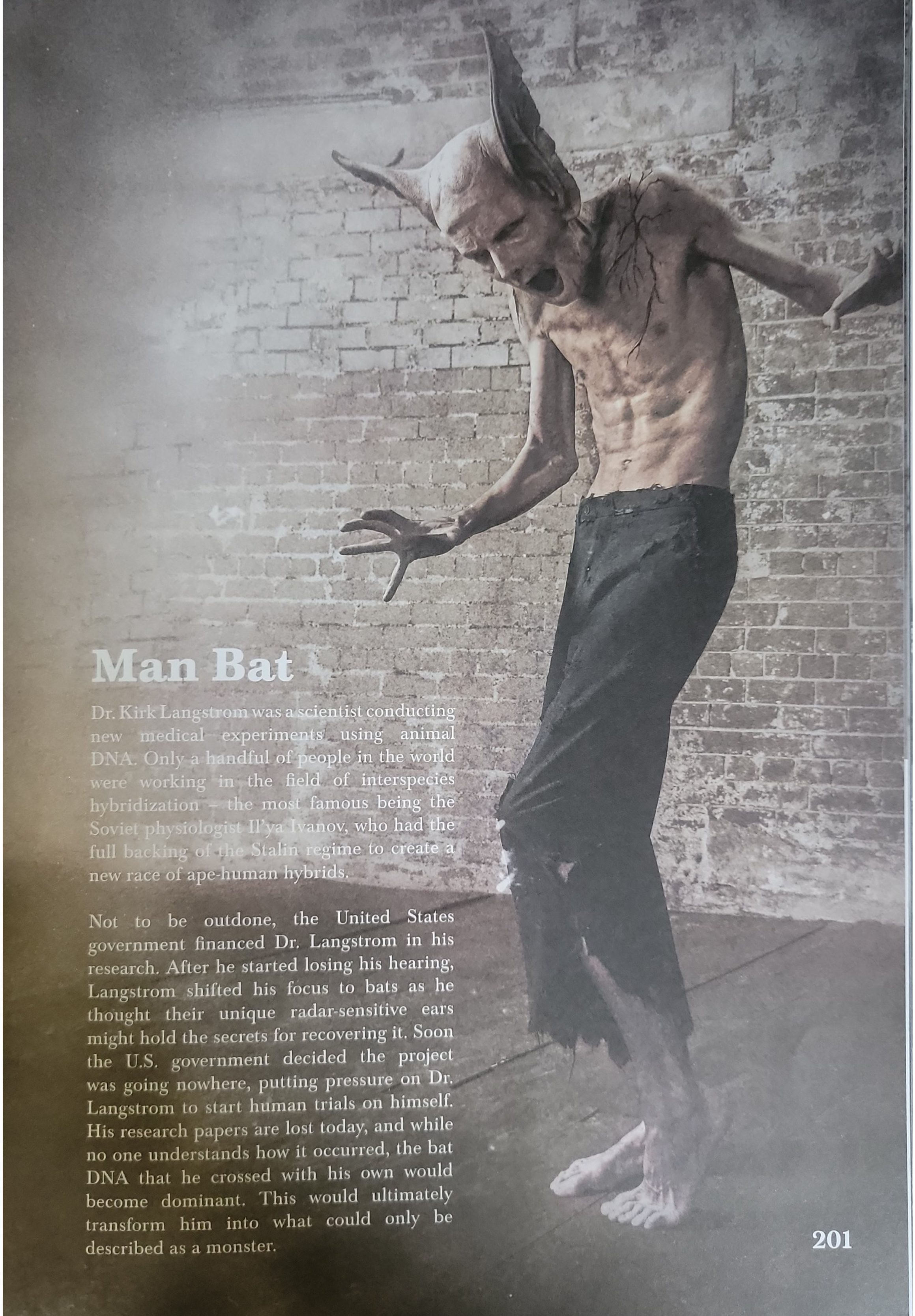
Arthur realized at this point that he wasn't cut out for this type of physical endeavor if a child could overcome him. If he was going to make money, he had to be smarter. He started researching people, looking for clues in their everyday lives that he could string together to figure out their secrets. Once he had them, he would blackmail the target, but also sell their secrets to the highest bidder. Full of confidence after many successful jobs, his next target was Batman. He was going to find out the real identity of the Dark Knight and sell it to the underworld. Well, that was until his own daughter spoiled his plans.





Spoiler

Stephanie Brown was the daughter of The Clue Master. Ever since she was born, her father neglected her. He was always looking for the next get-rich-quick schemes. She saw how he would destroy people's lives to get ahead, even before he became The Clue Master. When Stephanie found out about his plan to reveal the identity of Batman, she created her own alter ego to stop him. Even though she managed to put an end to her father's plan, Batman never approved of her activities. Robin (Tim Drake), however, decided to disregard his mentor's decision and trained the Spoiler so she could continue to be another masked soldier helping Gotham.



Man Bat

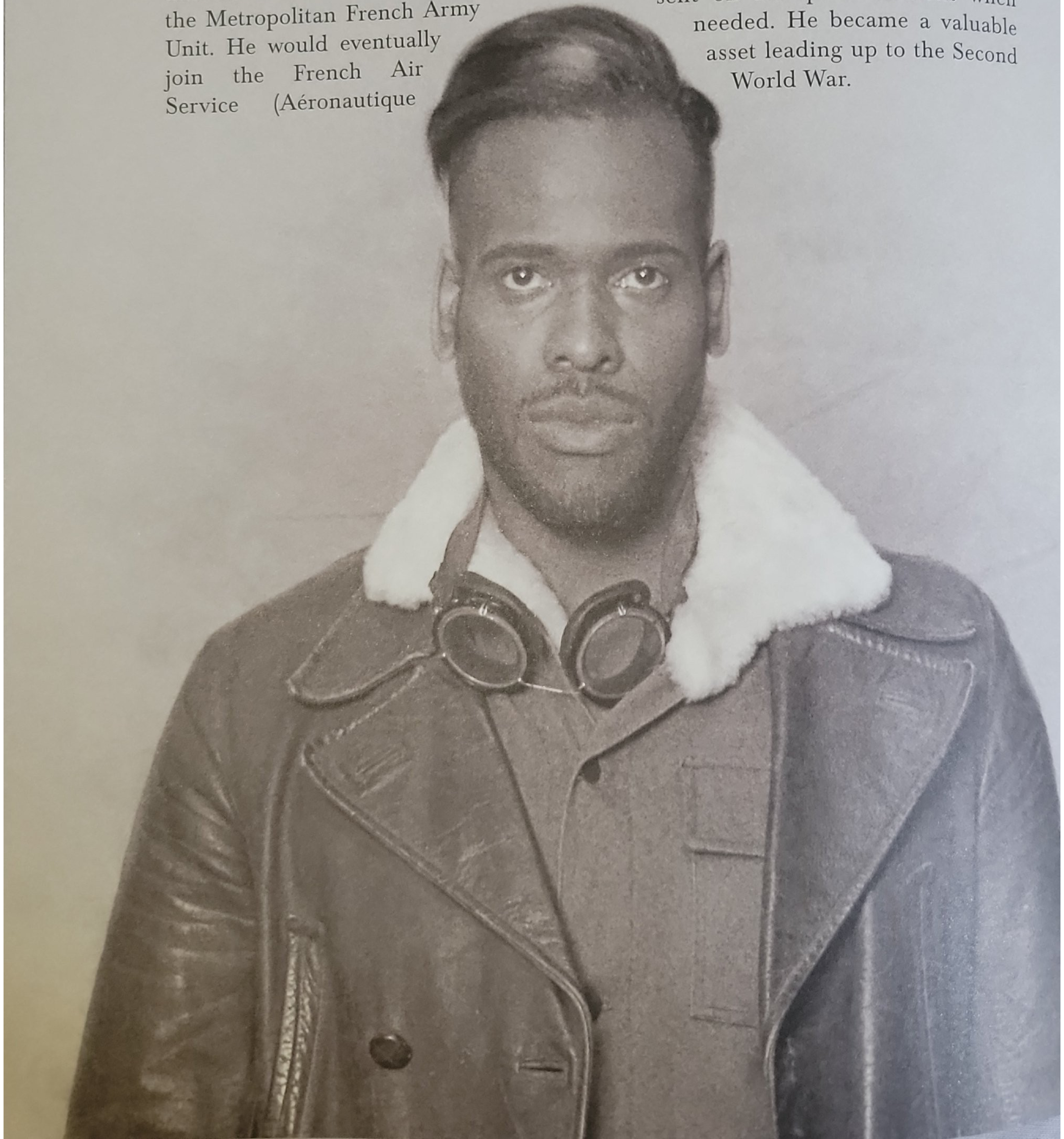
Dr. Kirk Langstrom was a scientist conducting new medical experiments using animal DNA. Only a handful of people in the world were working in the field of interspecies hybridization – the most famous being the Soviet physiologist Il'ya Ivanov, who had the full backing of the Stalin regime to create a new race of ape-human hybrids.

Not to be outdone, the United States government financed Dr. Langstrom in his research. After he started losing his hearing, Langstrom shifted his focus to bats as he thought their unique radar-sensitive ears might hold the secrets for recovering it. Soon the U.S. government decided the project was going nowhere, putting pressure on Dr. Langstrom to start human trials on himself. His research papers are lost today, and while no one understands how it occurred, the bat DNA that he crossed with his own would become dominant. This would ultimately transform him into what could only be described as a monster.

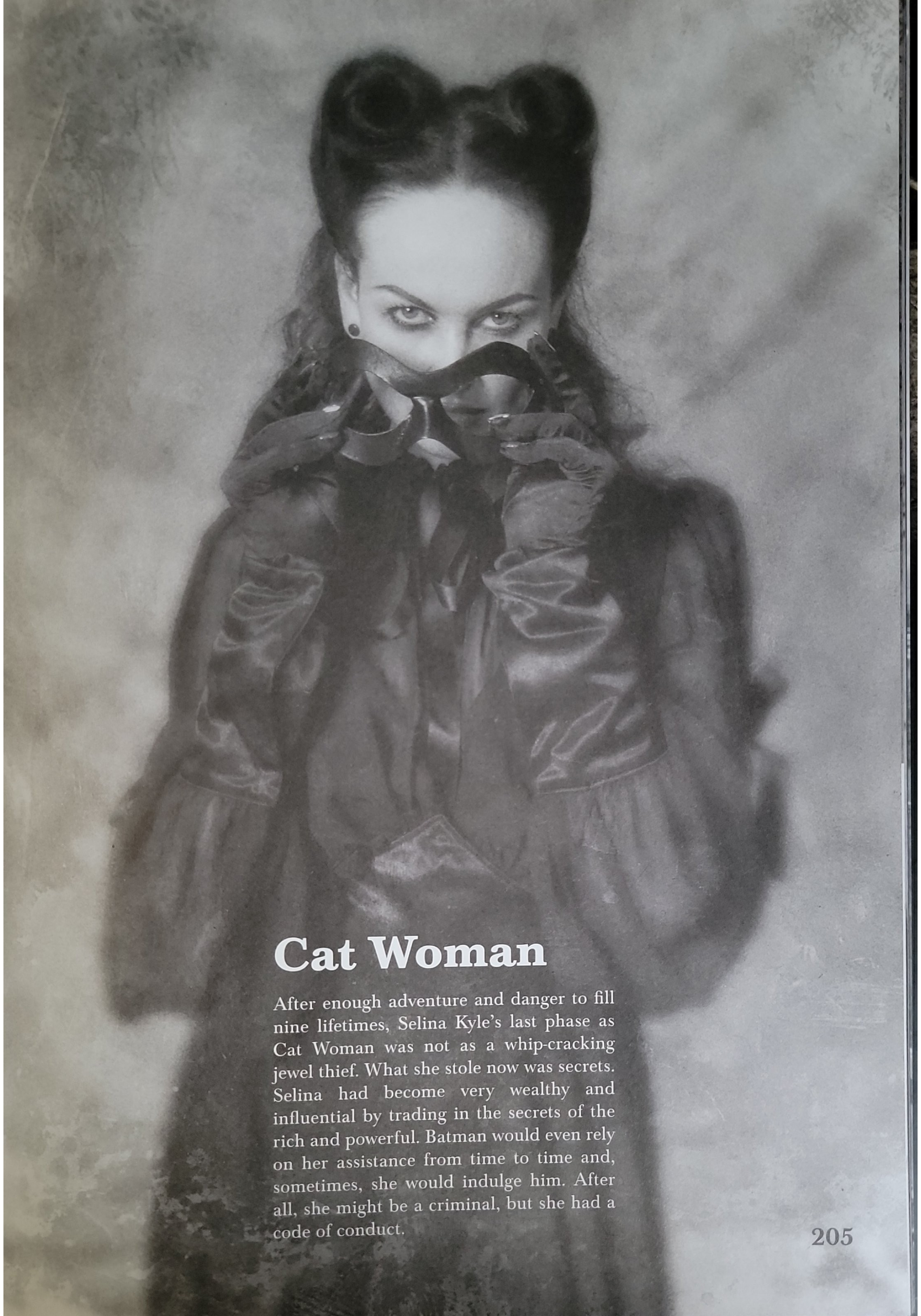
Bat Wing

Son of Lucius Fox, Luke Fox was raised in Europe. After the race massacres of Rosewood and Tulsa in the years prior, his father thought it would be safer for someone of color to get an education in a more progressive country. He also wished to keep him away from any collateral damage linked to Bruce Wayne's underground activities. Luke never had any desire to lead a safe life as his father wished. He joined the 3rd Marching Regiment of the Foreign Legion, and after time served he was allowed to transfer to the Metropolitan French Army Unit. He would eventually join the French Air Service (Aéronautique Militaire) as an air gunner, flying over 30 successful combat missions.

Upon returning to Gotham where he learned of his father's death, he initially blamed Batman and the other mask-wearing characters that infested the city. But when presented with the truth, he decided to honor his father by helping Bruce/Batman in the best way he could. "Batwing" became both the codename for his aircraft and himself. He would offer air support to the Bat-Team and was sent on European missions when needed. He became a valuable asset leading up to the Second World War.



ABOVE: Bat Wing flying over Gotham City.



Cat Woman

After enough adventure and danger to fill nine lifetimes, Selina Kyle's last phase as Cat Woman was not as a whip-cracking jewel thief. What she stole now was secrets. Selina had become very wealthy and influential by trading in the secrets of the rich and powerful. Batman would even rely on her assistance from time to time and, sometimes, she would indulge him. After all, she might be a criminal, but she had a code of conduct.

Bane

Bane was born in a small village in Santa Prisca, Mexico, and spent most of his life on the island prison of Peña Duro. This was one of the toughest and cruelest places on the planet, where men from around the world go to die long, hard deaths.

Bane's father was a British mercenary named Edmund Dorrance, better known as King Snake. Prior to the Mexican Civil War, Edmund had worked for a corrupt government, torturing and killing the people who were fighting against it.

When the Civil War began, Edmund fled Mexico in exile, and to make an example, the government put his native wife and children in prison in his place. Bane's mother and siblings are all believed to have perished, but Bane found a way to survive. He thrived in that hell hole, growing into a man whose very name was enough to invoke fear in those who dared mention it.

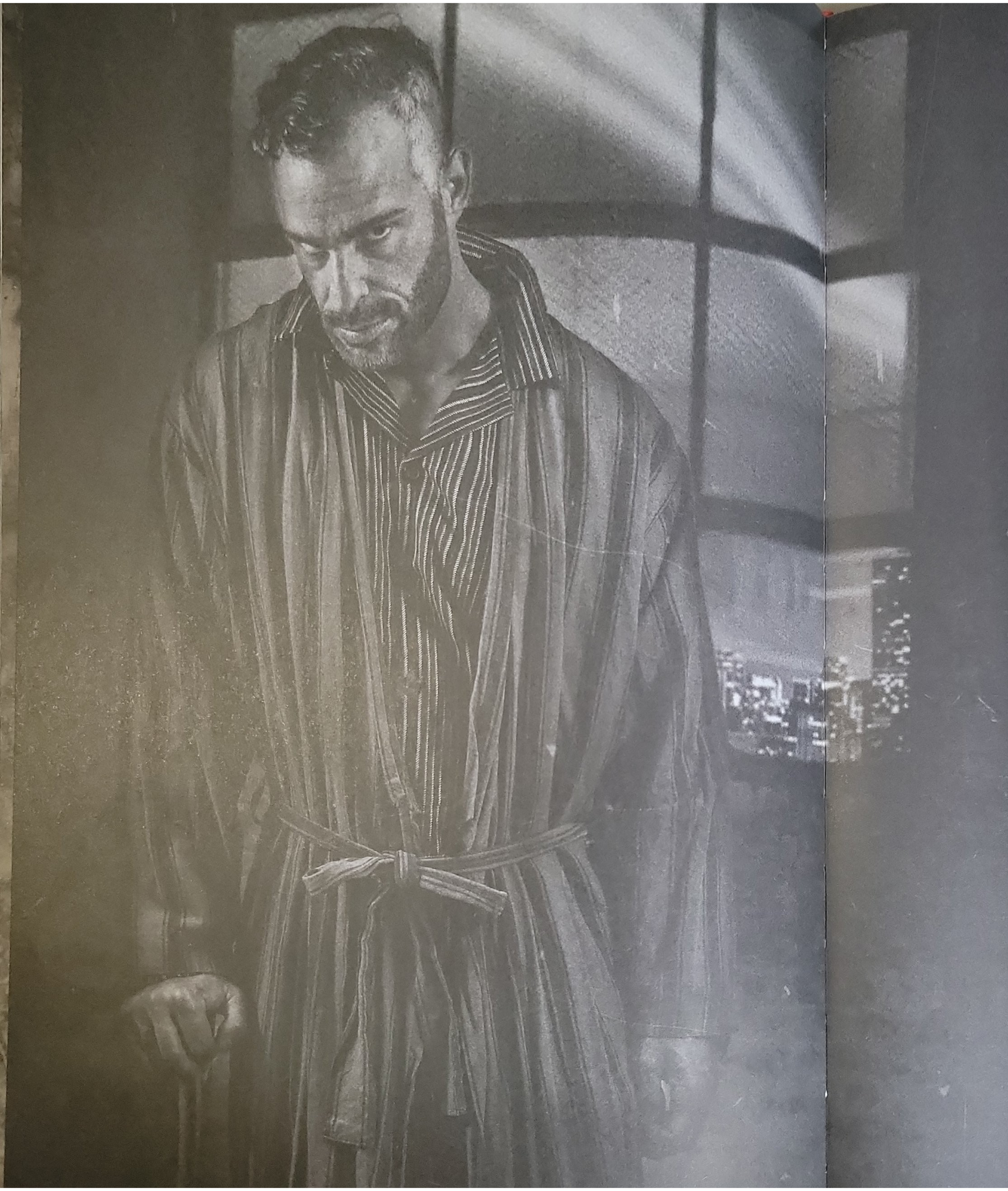
With no formal education, he found lessons where he could. Every inmate became a teacher. By the time he was 17, he knew a dozen languages and his body had become hardened into a blunt weapon by the constant fight for survival. He was a true monster created by the system.

Life was cheap in Peña Duro. During the war the government allowed foreign scientists to conduct testing on their inmates. The cruelty that was done on inmates in the name of science was comparable to the atrocities committed by the Japanese Unit 731 and the German human experiments in WW2.

ABOVE: The suitcase that housed all the essential ingredients for the venom formula's production.

The scientists' main goal was the development and manufacture of an enhancement steroid for human use. They tested the different variations on the inmates of Peña Duro, who nicknamed the drug "Venom" due to its high fatality rate among test subjects. Bane would be the drug's only success. As his life had proven, he was a survivor. The Venom gave him increased strength and stamina, but it was highly addictive and he was prone to violent outbursts. With this new strength, Bane broke out of the prison and murdered everyone working on the production of Venom – but not before learning the secrets of how it was made.

Years later he made his way to Gotham City, where he came face to face with the Batman. The strength and speed provided by the Venom was simply too much for an aging Dark Knight, who had never fully recovered from the injuries he sustained during the Shadow War. Batman managed to stop the Venom production and used Bane's addiction to subdue him – but not before Bane broke the Dark Knight's spine.

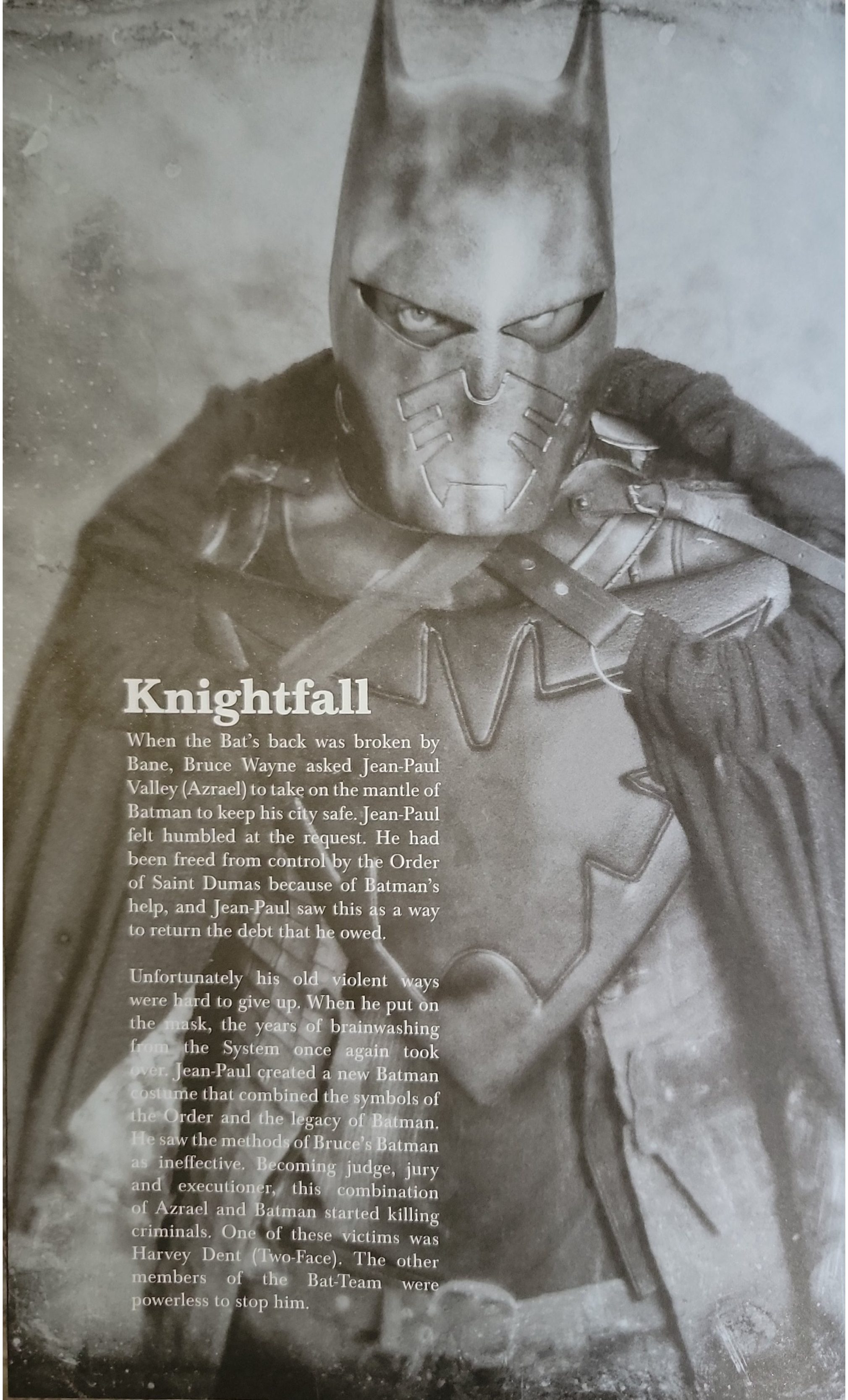


Bruce Wayne

With his back broken and on the verge of being permanently paralyzed, Bruce was defeated. If not for his wealth and resources, he may have never been able to regain his mobility. Bruce traveled to Europe for extensive rehabilitation, where he'd remain for almost two years.

While out of action, Bruce recognized that there needed to be Batman to serve as Gotham's watchful protector. So he handed the mantle of the Dark Knight to Jean-Paul Valley (Azrael), who had proven himself during the Shadow War. No one knew why a known killer was picked to wear the cowl over one of Batman's protégées. Some believed that Bruce couldn't bear to lose any more of his family.

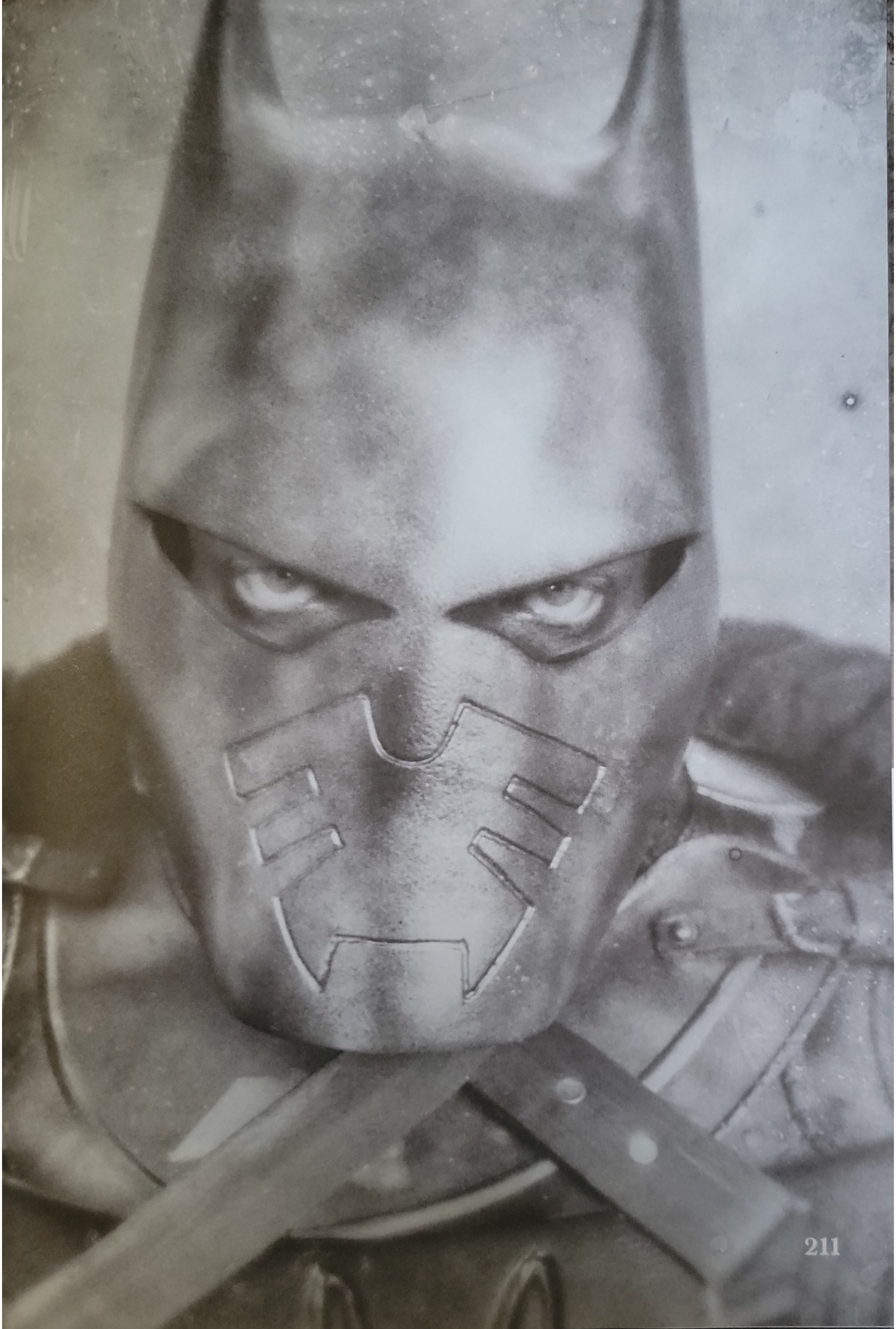
However, little did Bruce know that he was making a grave mistake by leaving Gotham in the hands of this new Batman.

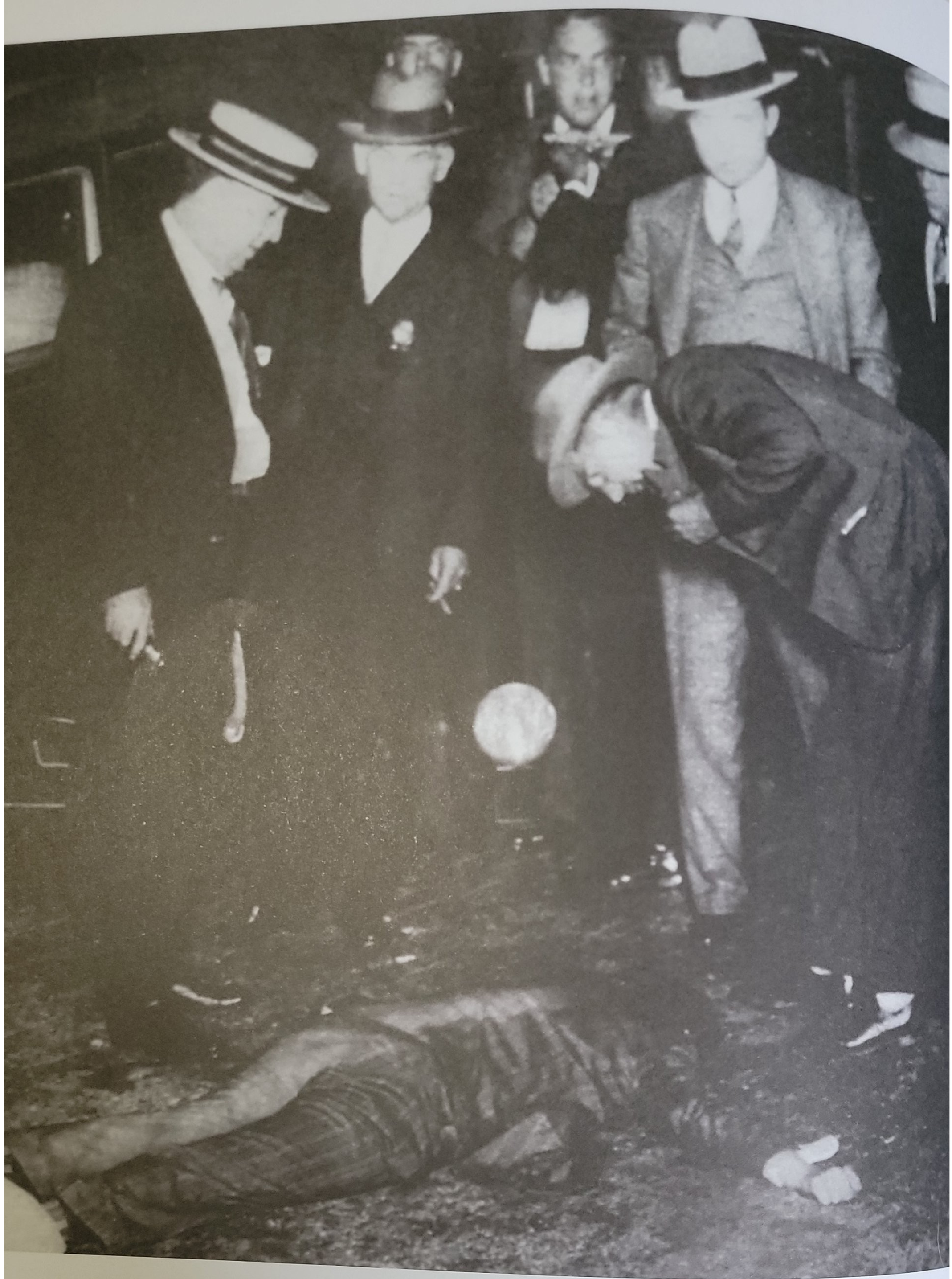


Knightfall

When the Bat's back was broken by Bane, Bruce Wayne asked Jean-Paul Valley (Azrael) to take on the mantle of Batman to keep his city safe. Jean-Paul felt humbled at the request. He had been freed from control by the Order of Saint Dumas because of Batman's help, and Jean-Paul saw this as a way to return the debt that he owed.

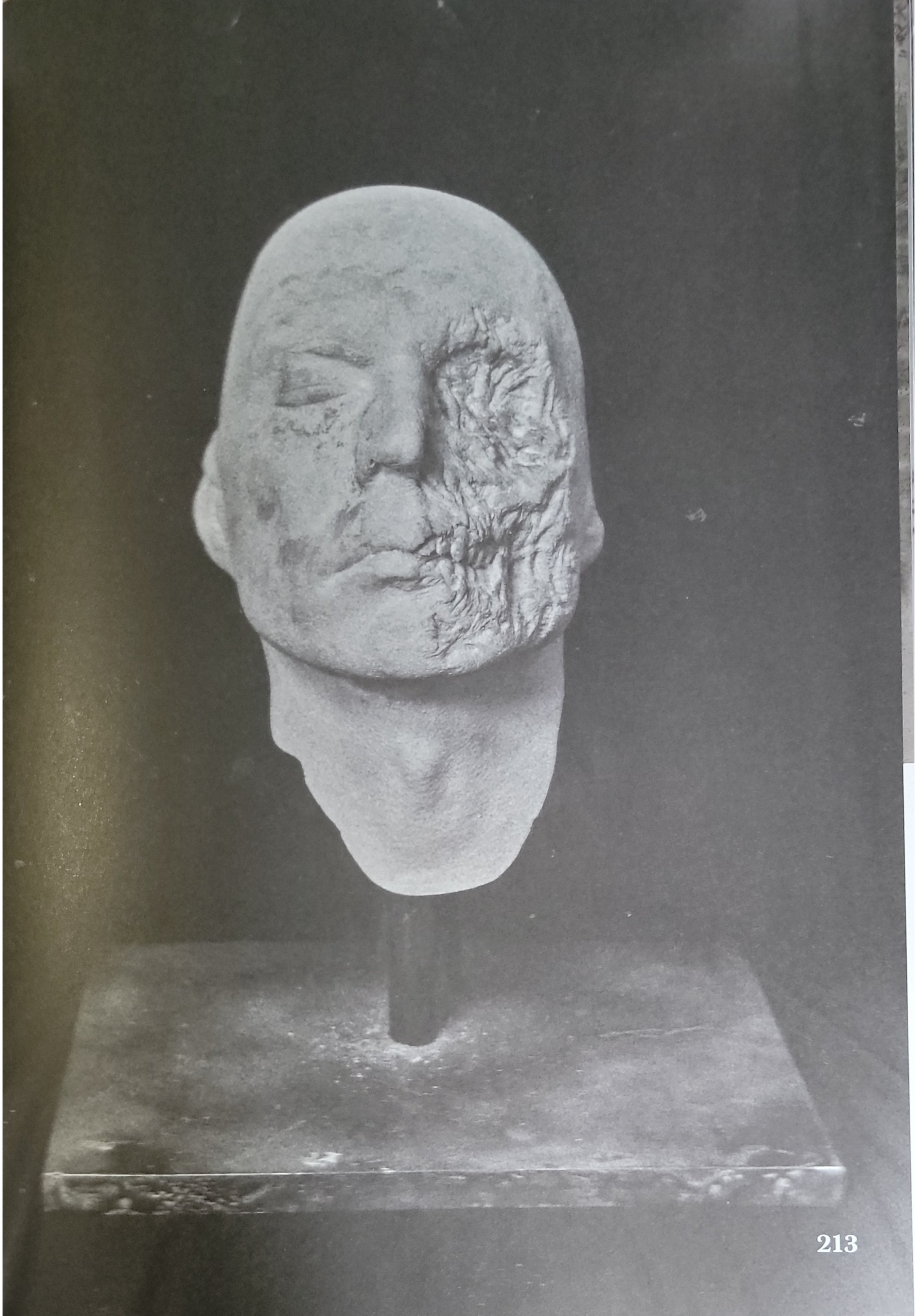
Unfortunately his old violent ways were hard to give up. When he put on the mask, the years of brainwashing from the System once again took over. Jean-Paul created a new Batman costume that combined the symbols of the Order and the legacy of Batman. He saw the methods of Bruce's Batman as ineffective. Becoming judge, jury and executioner, this combination of Azrael and Batman started killing criminals. One of these victims was Harvey Dent (Two-Face). The other members of the Bat-Team were powerless to stop him.

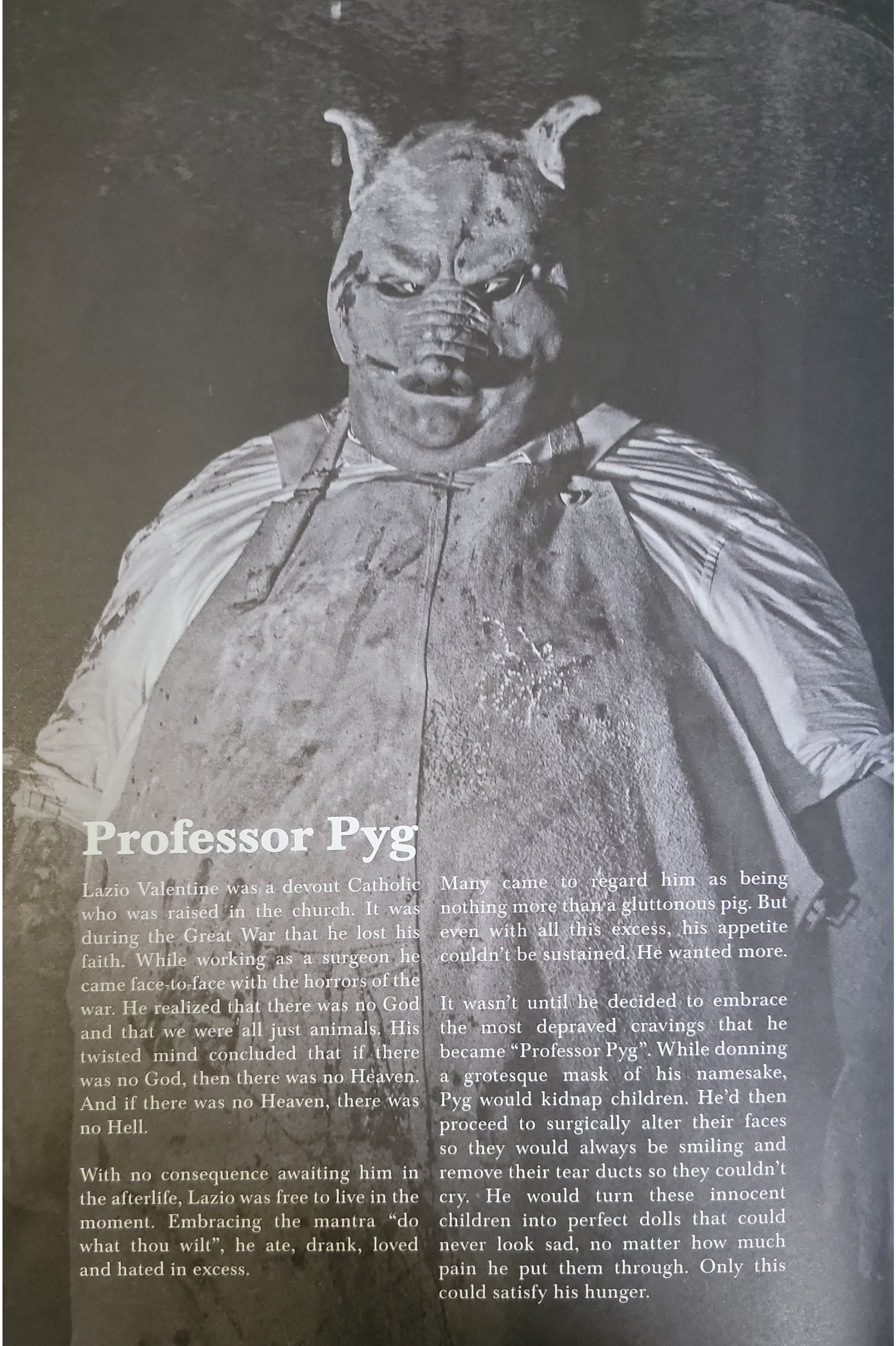




ABOVE: Police and reporters huddle around the lifeless body of Harvey Dent (Two-Face), who finally met his end at the hands of Jean-Paul Valley's Azrael-Batman.

RIGHT: Harvey Dent's (Two-Face) death mask.





Professor Pyg

Lazio Valentine was a devout Catholic who was raised in the church. It was during the Great War that he lost his faith. While working as a surgeon he came face-to-face with the horrors of the war. He realized that there was no God and that we were all just animals. His twisted mind concluded that if there was no God, then there was no Heaven. And if there was no Heaven, there was no Hell.

With no consequence awaiting him in the afterlife, Lazio was free to live in the moment. Embracing the mantra "do what thou wilt", he ate, drank, loved and hated in excess.

Many came to regard him as being nothing more than a gluttonous pig. But even with all this excess, his appetite couldn't be sustained. He wanted more.

It wasn't until he decided to embrace the most depraved cravings that he became "Professor Pyg". While donning a grotesque mask of his namesake, Pyg would kidnap children. He'd then proceed to surgically alter their faces so they would always be smiling and remove their tear ducts so they couldn't cry. He would turn these innocent children into perfect dolls that could never look sad, no matter how much pain he put them through. Only this could satisfy his hunger.

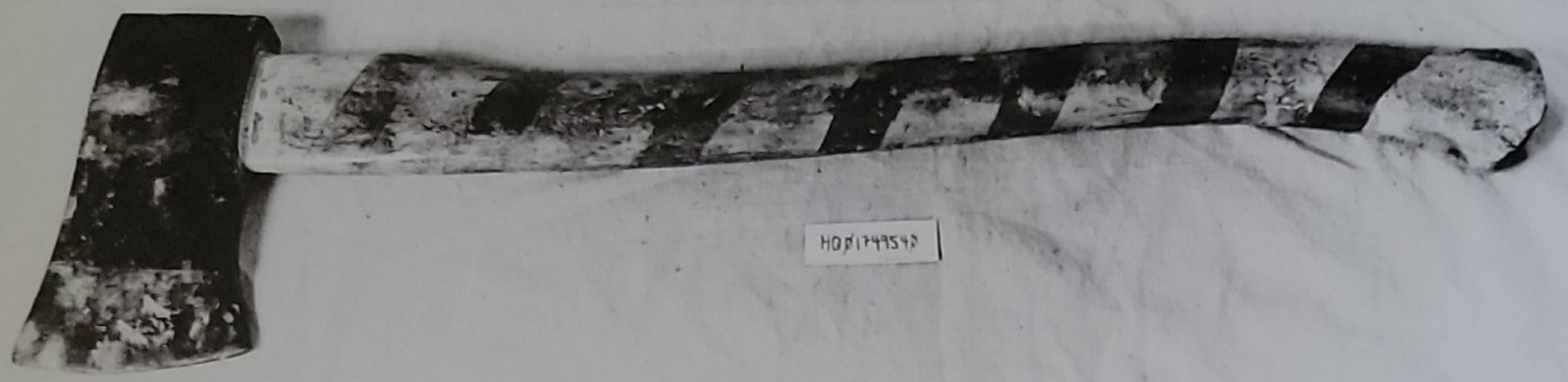
The Creeper

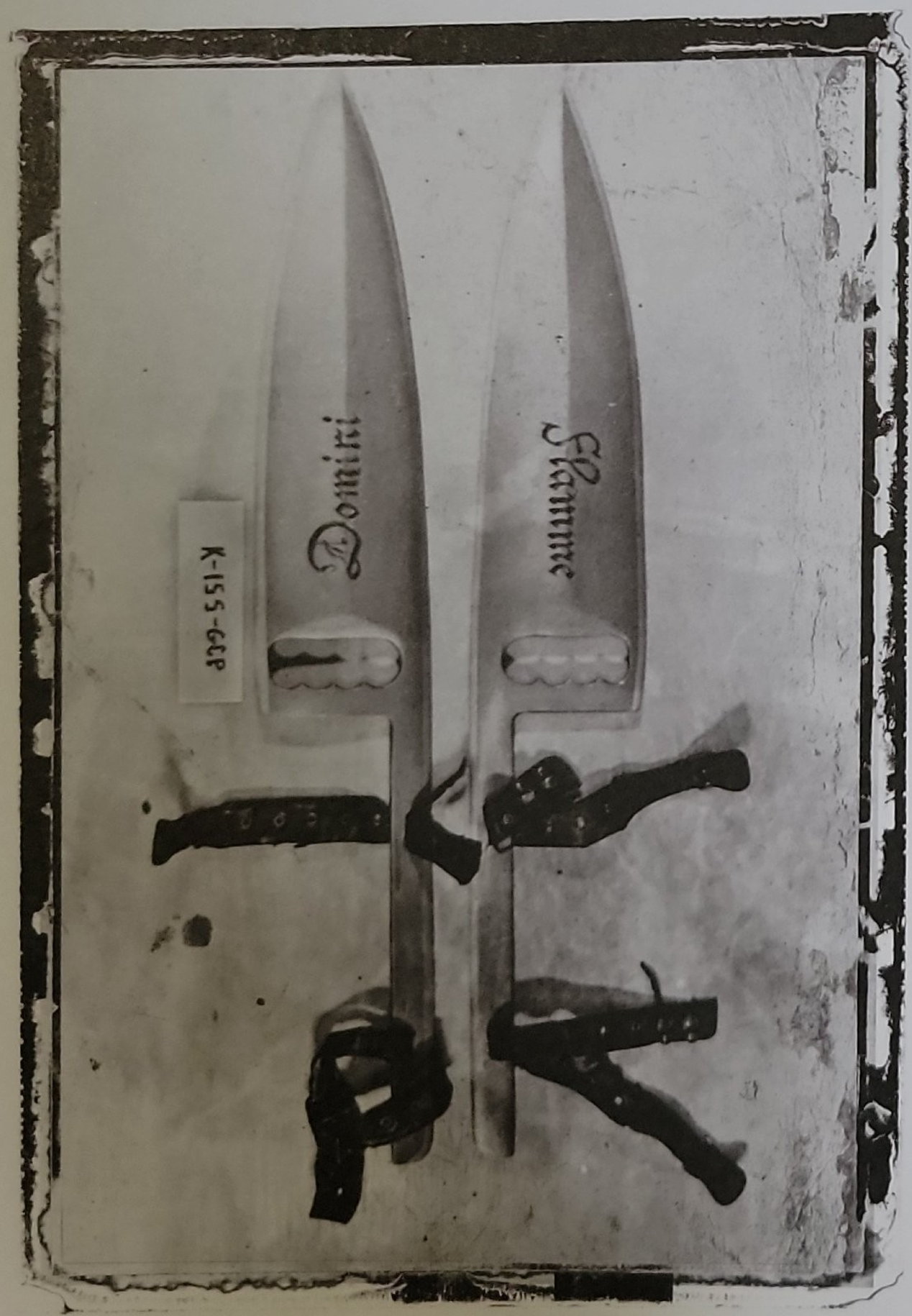
Jack Ryder was a well-known radio host who wanted to get the inside scoop about the costumed men and women that the press were obsessed with. Jack thought the best way to do this was to become a hero himself.

At first, Jack would go out at night looking like a character from a German expressionist film. He'd watch events from afar, earning himself the nickname "The Creeper." No one knew if he was a hero or a villain. While he originally saw this as a way to make his radio program more popular, his activities as The Creeper soon took priority. Jack became hooked, a trait of his addictive personality.

He managed to secure a watered-down version of Venom, the steroid enhancer that was infamously used by Bane. Jack soon became addicted to the drug, with extended use of it transforming his body and mental state. You never knew if you would get the hero or the villain. It was safer just to beware The Creeper.

ABOVE: The Creeper's belt which held his supply of Venom.



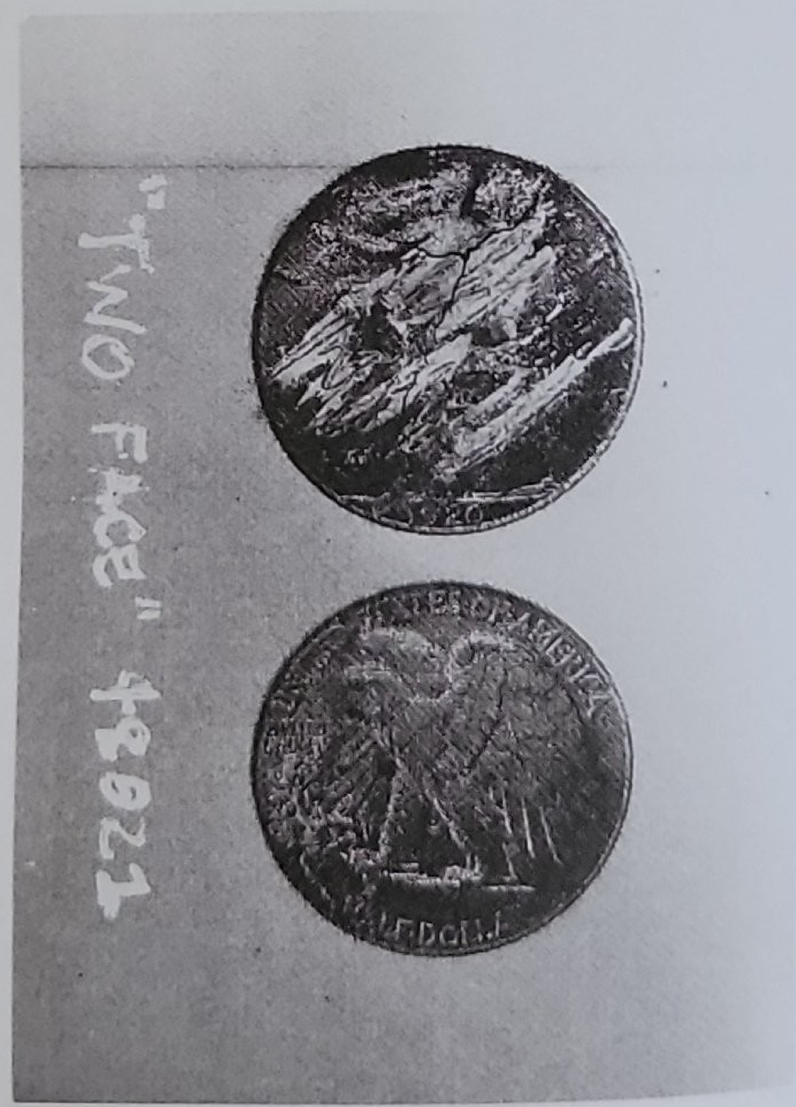


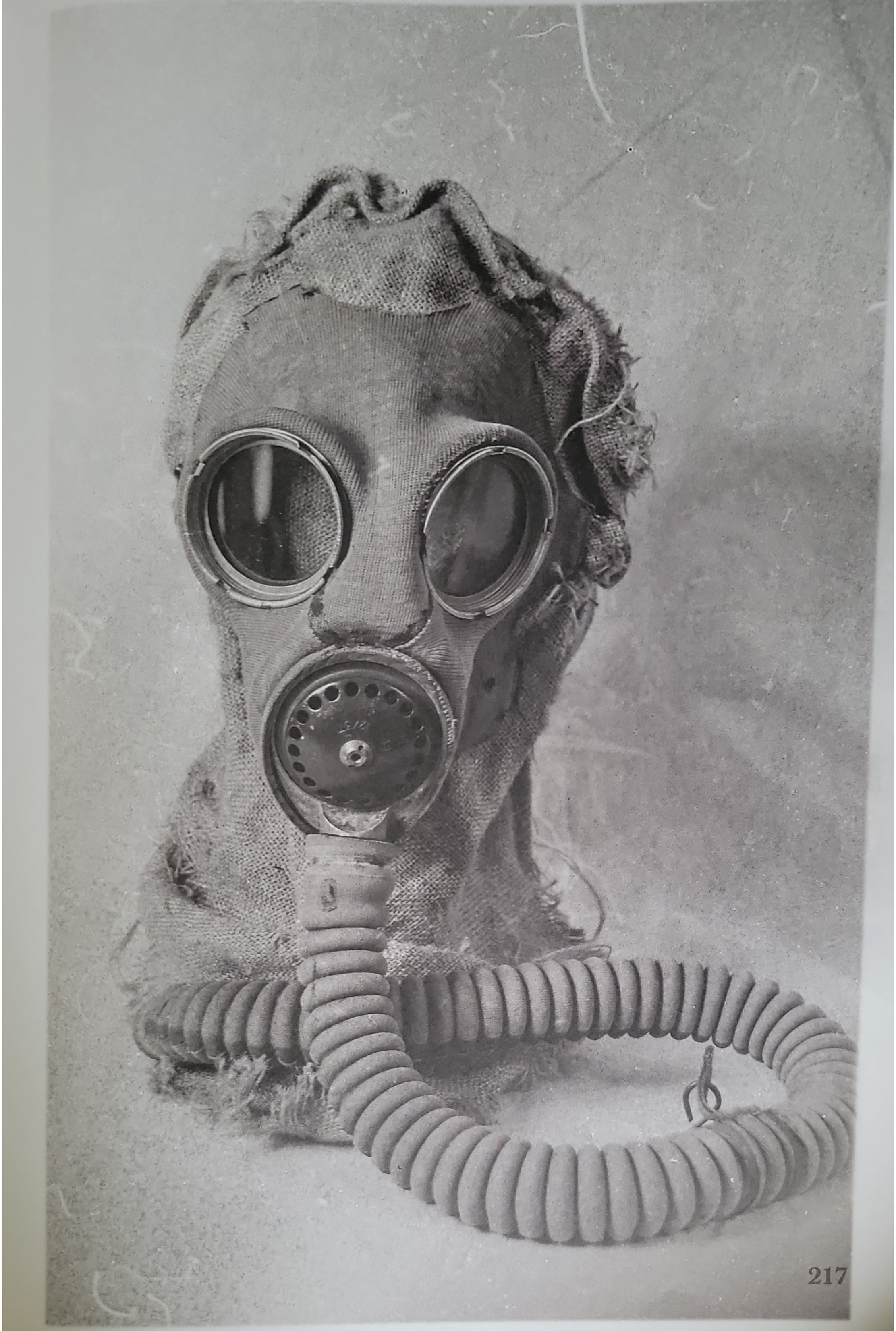
ABOVE: Harley Quinn's axe seized by Police and used as evidence in court against her.

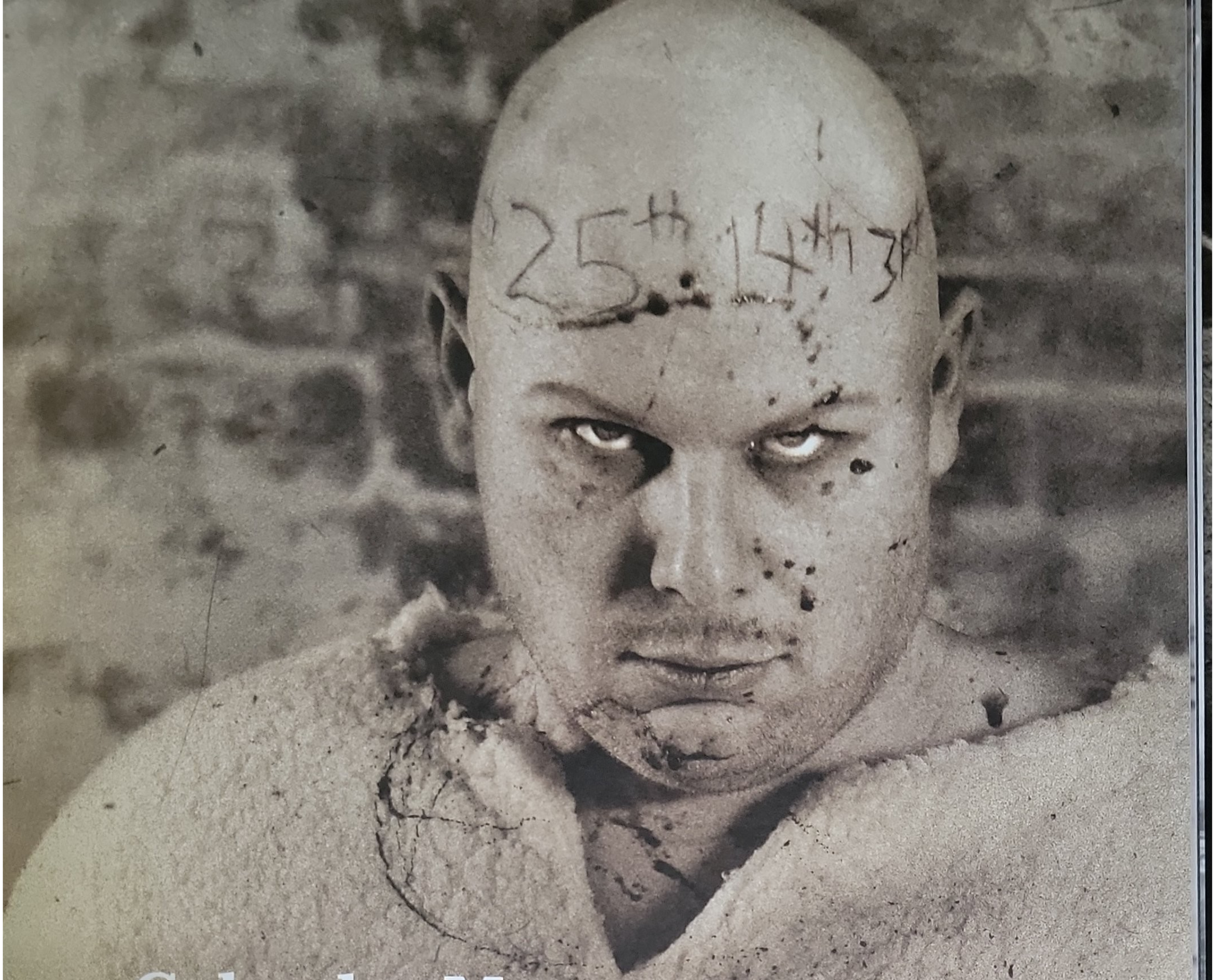
LEFT: The sacred blades of the Order of St Dumas.

RIGHT: Scarecrow's hood and gas mask.

BELOW: Two-Face's lucky coin.







Calendar Man

Despite suffering rampant abuse as a child, where he was beaten by his parents over the slightest incident, Julian Day always kept a happy disposition. That was until one Christmas where everything changed. All he wanted was one present. He didn't even care what it was, he would have been happy with anything, as he'd never received one before.

His parents would repeatedly tell him that Santa would give him one, but only if he was good. For months Julian was the most ideal son you could ever hope for.

But when Christmas morning came there was no present in sight. Julian cried to his parents about Santa forgetting him, only for them to turn around and tell him that Santa was never real.

In an instant, Julian stopped crying, went to his father's drawer, pulled out a pistol and shot both his parents dead. Despite what he'd done, Julian continued to celebrate Christmas with his dead parents.

As the "Calendar Man" grew older, he'd repeat these actions every holiday, creating a tradition of sorts. He would dress according to whatever holiday was being celebrated, choose a random family to kill and then spend the holiday with their corpses.

Robin IV
Damian Wayne

Damian Wayne was the last person to ever hold the title of Robin (not including the brief return of the persona in 1955). He was the youngest Boy Wonder and the deadliest. Trained from birth by the League of Assassins to one day be the successor of Ra's al Ghul, Damian instead turned his back on his grandfather's plans, choosing to follow in his father's footsteps by becoming a masked crime fighter. Hidden under the veneer of a young, innocent-looking boy was a cold-blooded killer, who thought becoming Batman was his destiny and would stop anyone who got in the way of fulfilling it.

Hush

Dr. Thomas Elliot was born into a well-respected family with a long history connecting him to Gotham. Like Bruce Wayne and Oswald Cobblepot, he was a descendant of one of the original founding fathers of Gotham City. The Elliots and Waynes were close; so close that they were distant relatives. Young Thomas was named after the same person Bruce's father was named after. The Elliot family may have come from old money, but their family's investments dried up long ago. The Elliot's biggest secret was that they were broke, spending any money they had trying to keep up appearances of belonging to the social elite. None of their financial woes were helped by the fact that Thomas Elliot Snr. was a compulsive gambler – and a bad one at that.

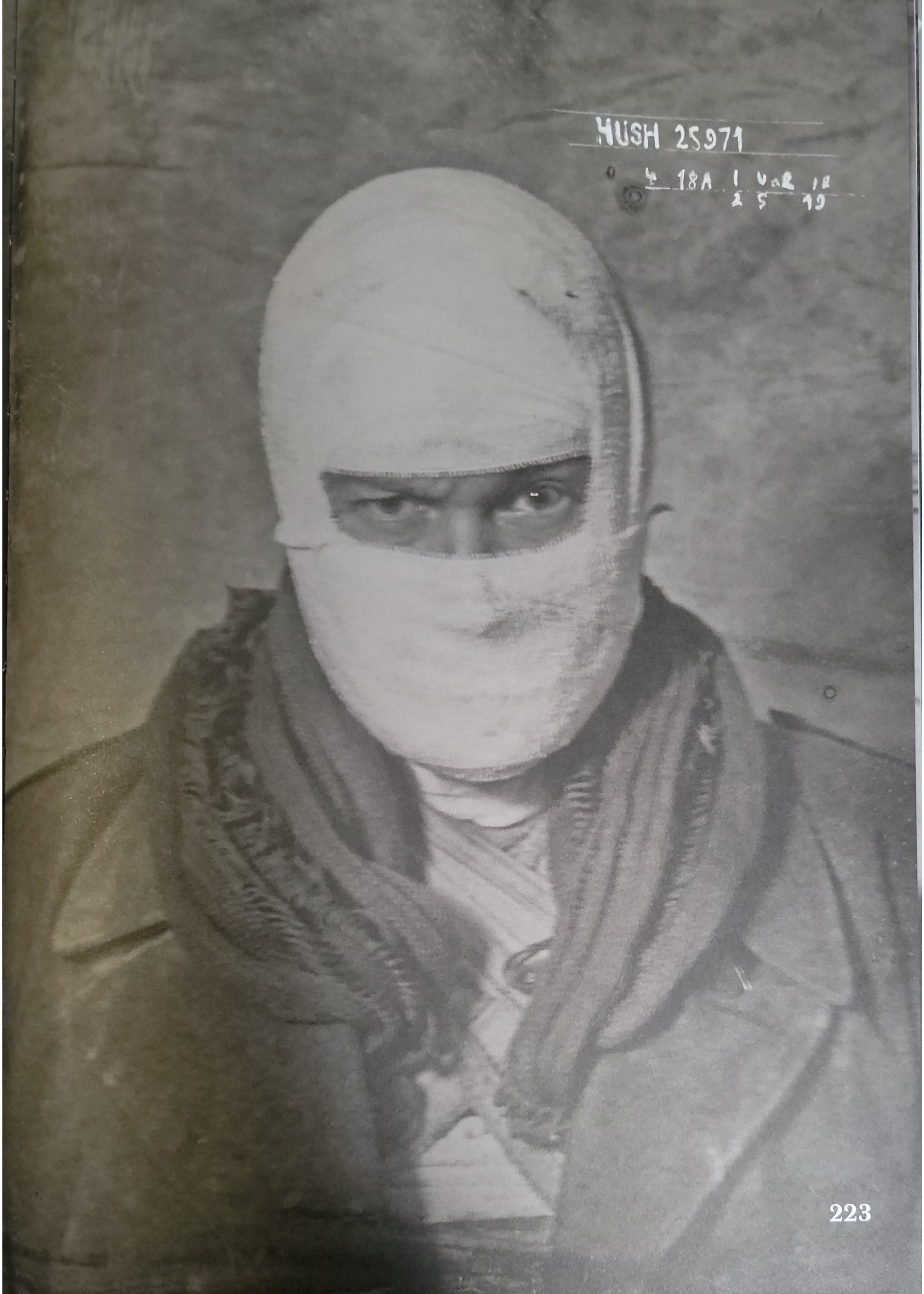
The only things Thomas inherited from his father were his addiction to gambling and a lot of debt. Though Thomas would not see it as the same addiction, he would often say that he was a gambler and his father was just a loser.

Thomas was a hard worker and very ambitious. He got a scholarship to college, and then onto medical school where he became a surgeon.

To put himself through college and medical school, he would turn to gambling. But after watching his father lose for so many years he decided he wouldn't simply rely on chance. Whatever the game, Thomas would do whatever he needed to win. At first it was a loaded deck of cards to ensure a winning hand, and then poisoning a favorite racehorse to make sure it would drag its feet, kidnapping a prize fighter's wife to make him take a dive, and murdering the parents of a star ballplayer so he would miss the World Series. Nothing was beyond Thomas.

In order to hide Thomas' secret, he took the name "Hush" and would always cover his face. He would manipulate everything from the shadows, becoming a "boogieman" of the criminal world. With the cover of a well-respected name and profession of a surgeon, he operated for years under Batman's radar, always one step ahead of Dark Knight.

He was one of only a few of Batman's enemies to work out the costumed vigilante's true identity. Armed with the truth and years of experience in blackmail, Hush would torment Bruce Wayne to levels that no one had reached before.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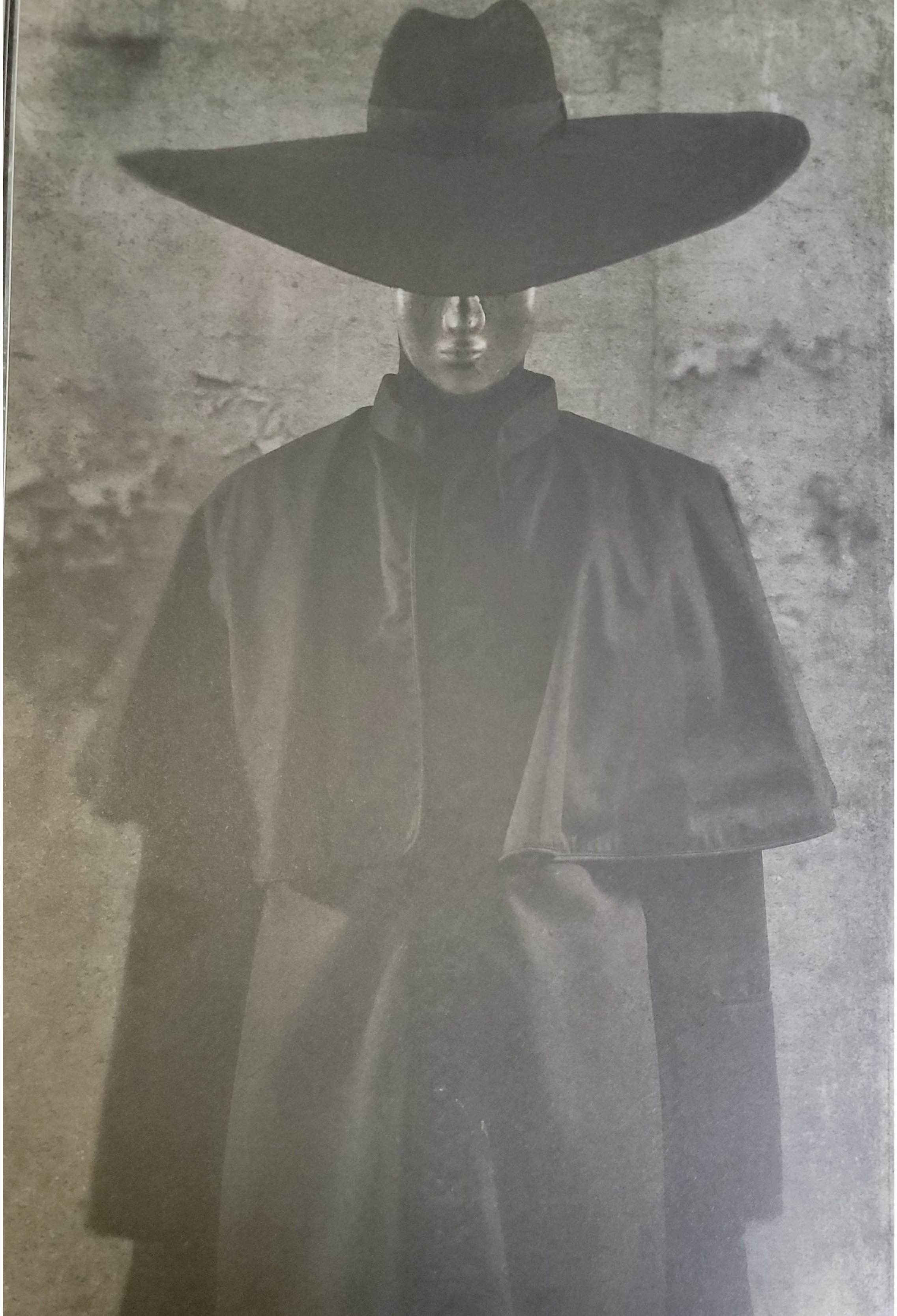
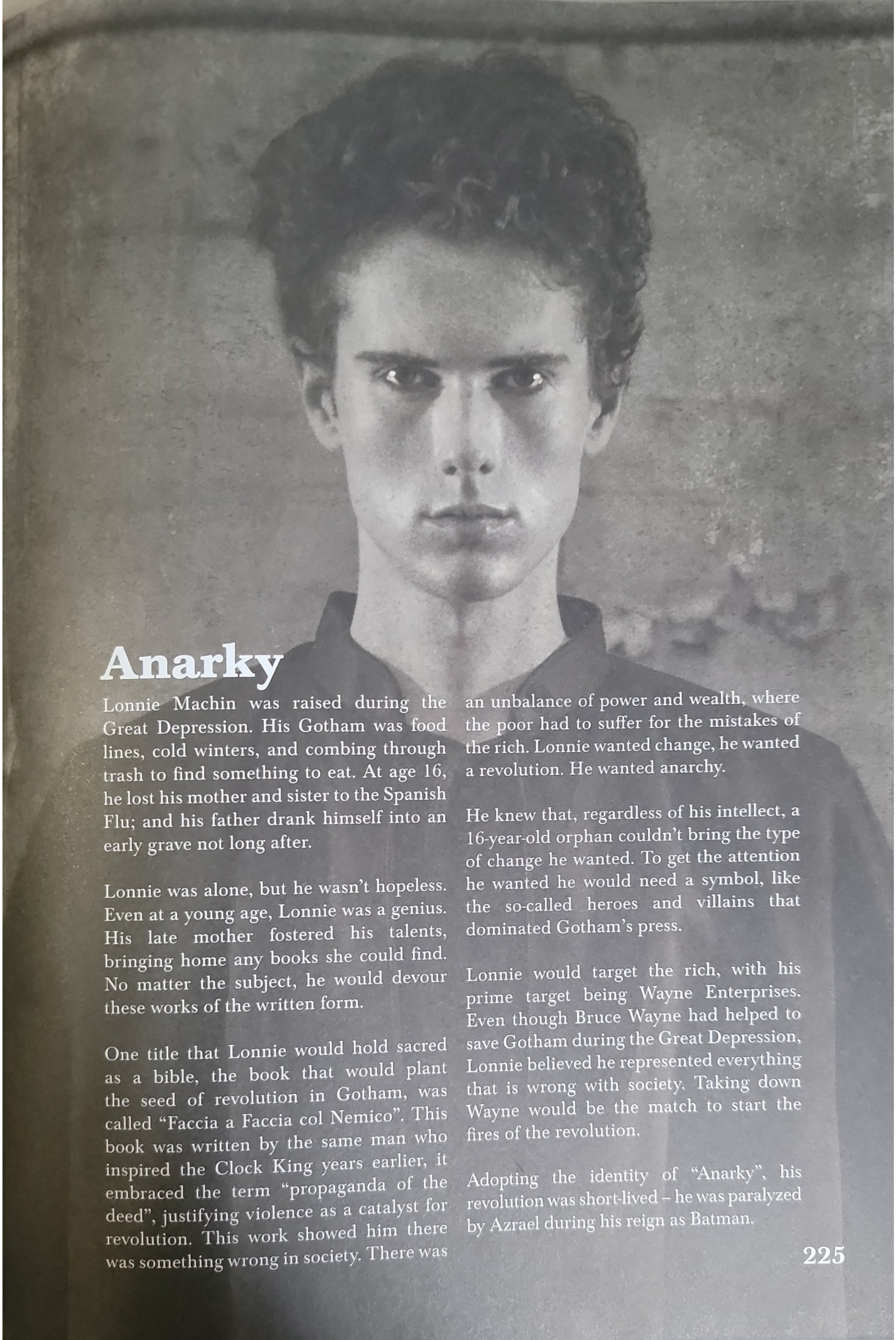




Anarky

Lonnie Machin was raised during the Great Depression. His Gotham was food lines, cold winters, and combing through trash to find something to eat. At age 16, he lost his mother and sister to the Spanish Flu; and his father drank himself into an early grave not long after.

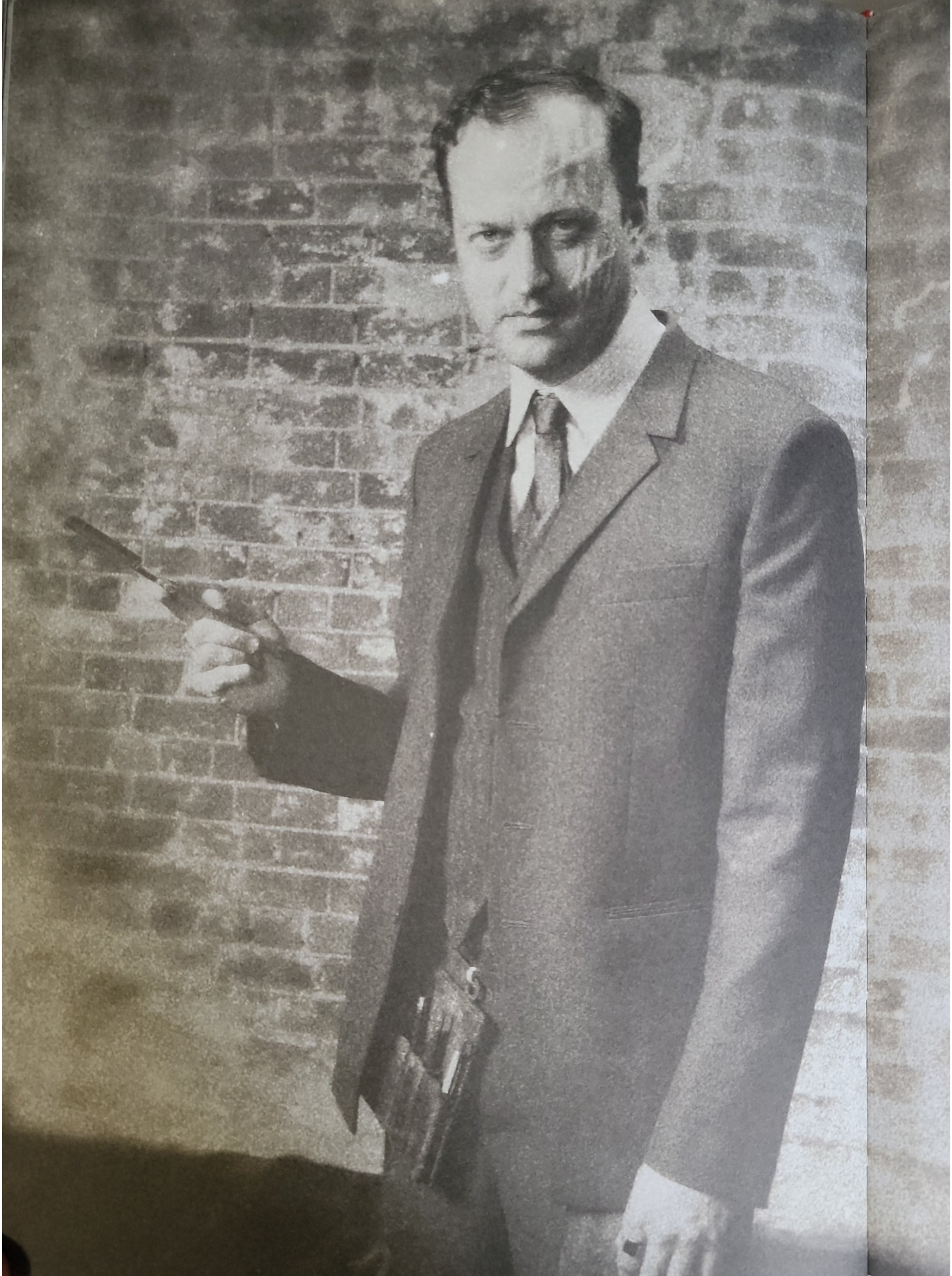
Lonnie was alone, but he wasn't hopeless. Even at a young age, Lonnie was a genius. His late mother fostered his talents, bringing home any books she could find. No matter the subject, he would devour these works of the written form.

One title that Lonnie would hold sacred as a bible, the book that would plant the seed of revolution in Gotham, was called "Faccia a Faccia col Nemico". This book was written by the same man who inspired the Clock King years earlier, it embraced the term "propaganda of the deed", justifying violence as a catalyst for revolution. This work showed him there was something wrong in society. There was an unbalance of power and wealth, where the poor had to suffer for the mistakes of the rich. Lonnie wanted change, he wanted a revolution. He wanted anarchy.

He knew that, regardless of his intellect, a 16-year-old orphan couldn't bring the type of change he wanted. To get the attention he wanted he would need a symbol, like the so-called heroes and villains that dominated Gotham's press.

Lonnie would target the rich, with his prime target being Wayne Enterprises. Even though Bruce Wayne had helped to save Gotham during the Great Depression, Lonnie believed he represented everything that is wrong with society. Taking down Wayne would be the match to start the fires of the revolution.

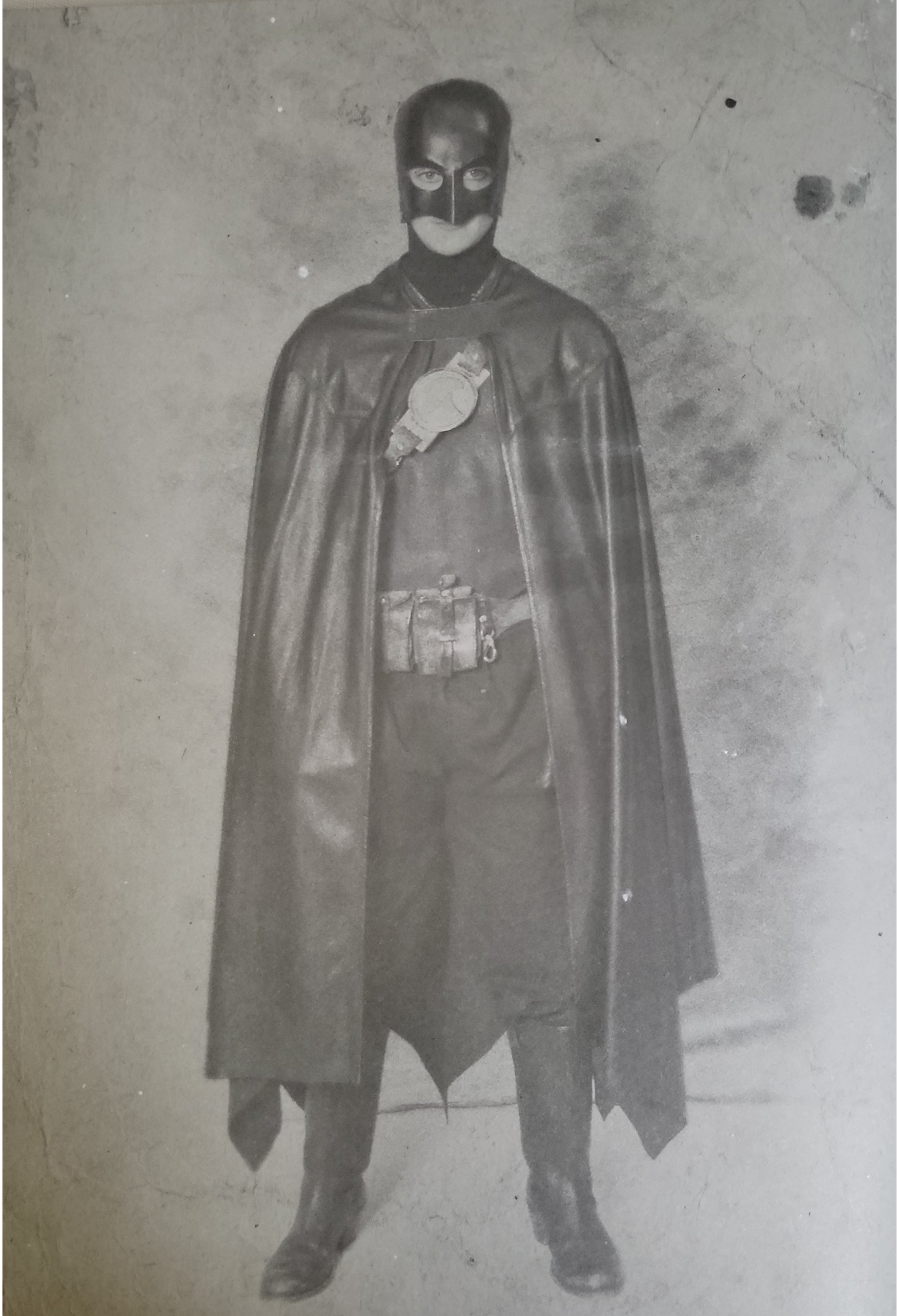
Adopting the identity of "Anarky", his revolution was short-lived – he was paralyzed by Azrael during his reign as Batman.



Victor Zsasz

During the Wall Street crash of 1929, Victor Zsasz lost it all. He had planned to commit suicide by jumping out of his office building, but someone had beat him to it. When he saw one of the other traders standing on the ledge, Victor realized that this man wasn't strong enough to jump on his own. This man would need help, which Victor gladly gave to him.

Pushing this man to his death awoke something in Victor. He saw his true calling. It was to help people to be released from their unfulfilled lives. Those who want to die but are too weak to do it themselves. He would help them, even if they didn't know they wanted him to do it. For years, Victor would "release" innocent strangers of all ages, races, and genders. Each time he took a life, he would cut a marker on his skin. When he arrived in Gotham, he had over 100 markers cut into his body.

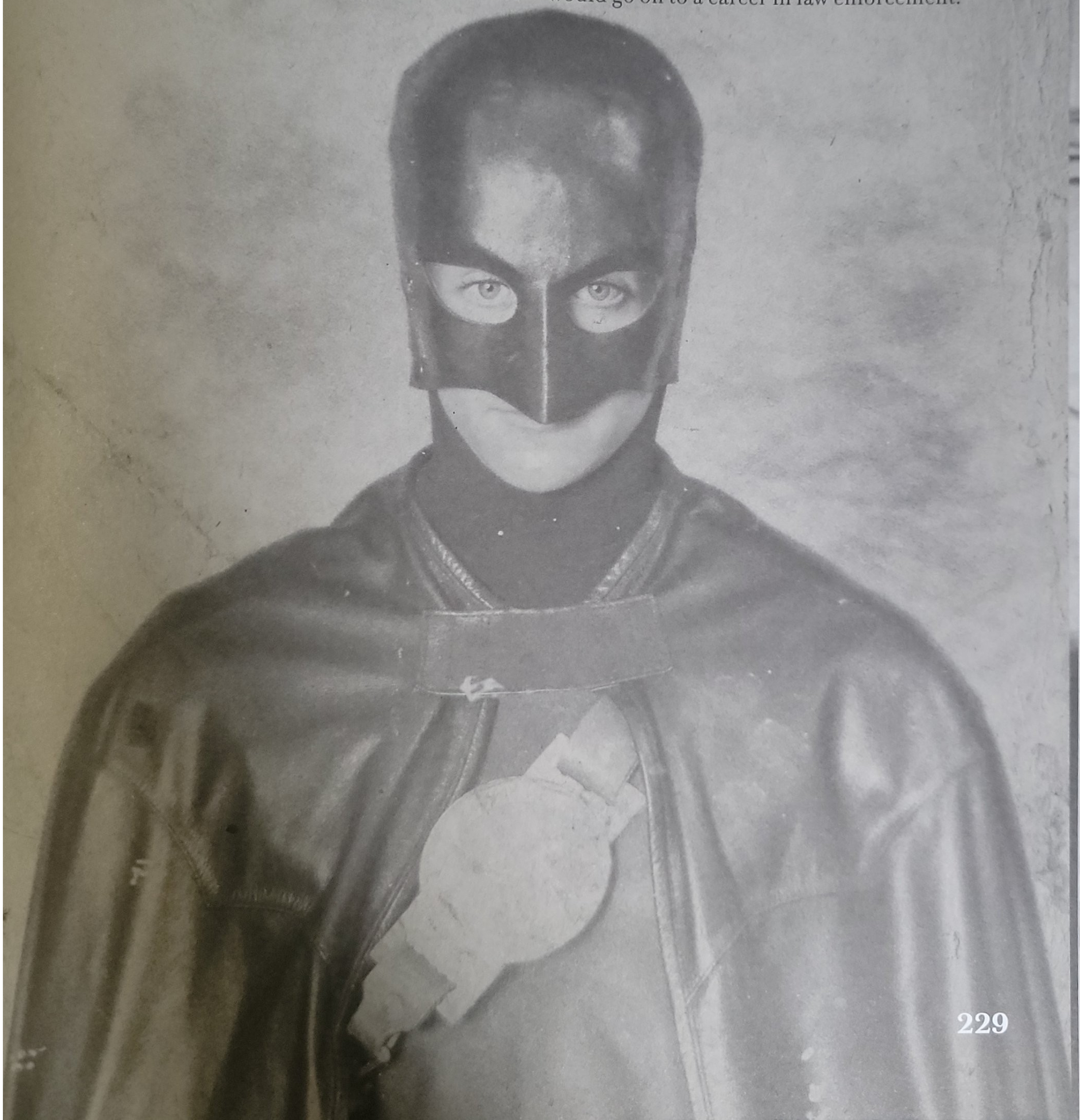


Red Wing

"Red Wing" (also called "Red Robin") was Tim Drake's new alter ego, after he stepped aside from the Robin mantle so that Damian could become the newest incarnation. He knew that Damian needed it more than he did.

Tim thought his time as a superhero was coming to an end, until Jean-Paul Valley took over as Batman. Valley might have been taking down the gangsters and street-level criminals, but he wasn't doing the detective work that Bruce had trained them all in.

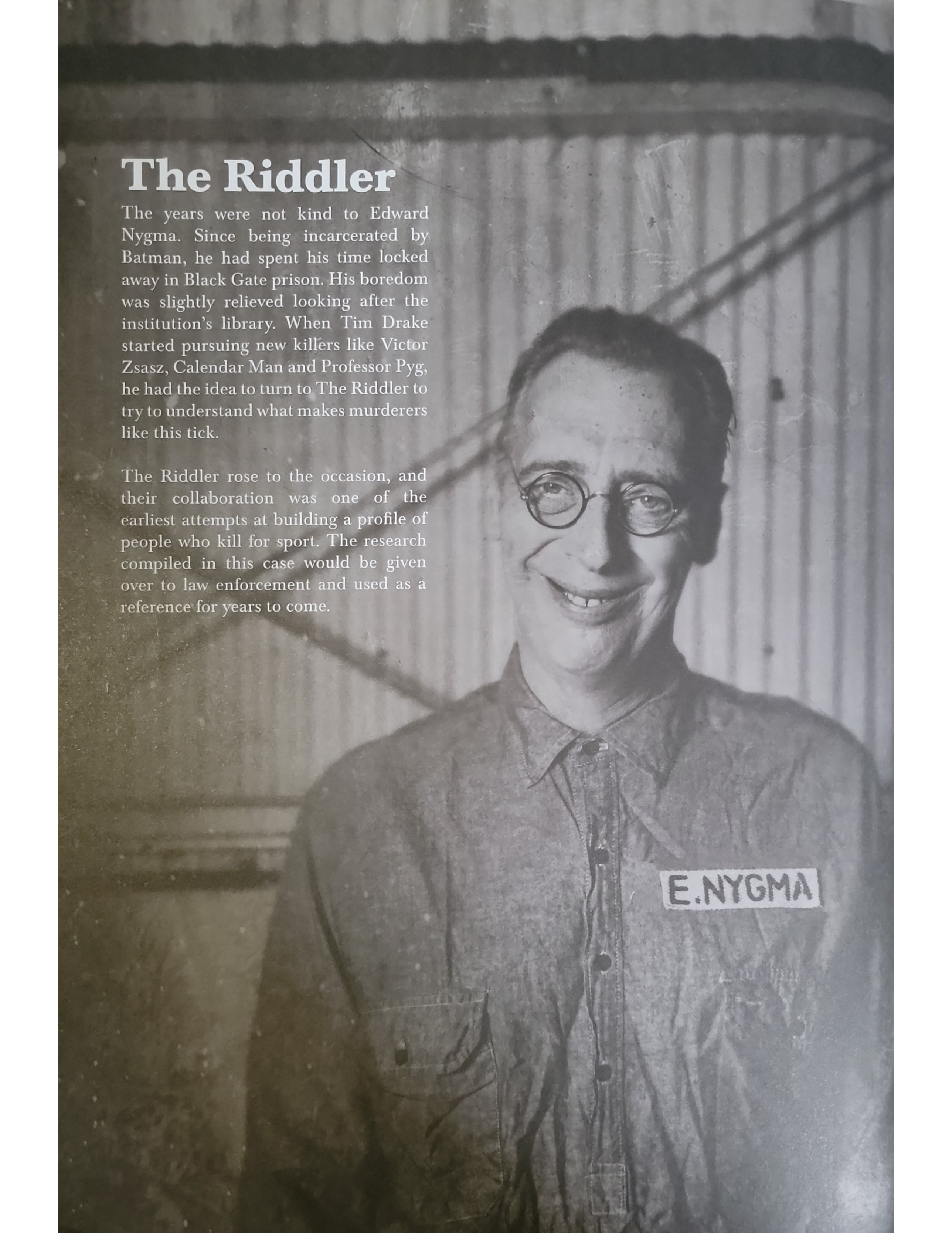
When killers like Victor Zsasz, Professor Pyg and the Calendar Man showed up in Gotham, Tim created a new costumed identity to bring them down. Red Wing only lasted a short period. Tim saw that he no longer needed a mask and eventually would go on to a career in law enforcement.



The Riddler

The years were not kind to Edward Nygma. Since being incarcerated by Batman, he had spent his time locked away in Black Gate prison. His boredom was slightly relieved looking after the institution's library. When Tim Drake started pursuing new killers like Victor Zsasz, Calendar Man and Professor Pyg, he had the idea to turn to The Riddler to try to understand what makes murderers like this tick.

The Riddler rose to the occasion, and their collaboration was one of the earliest attempts at building a profile of people who kill for sport. The research compiled in this case would be given over to law enforcement and used as a reference for years to come.



E.NYGMA

Harley Quinn

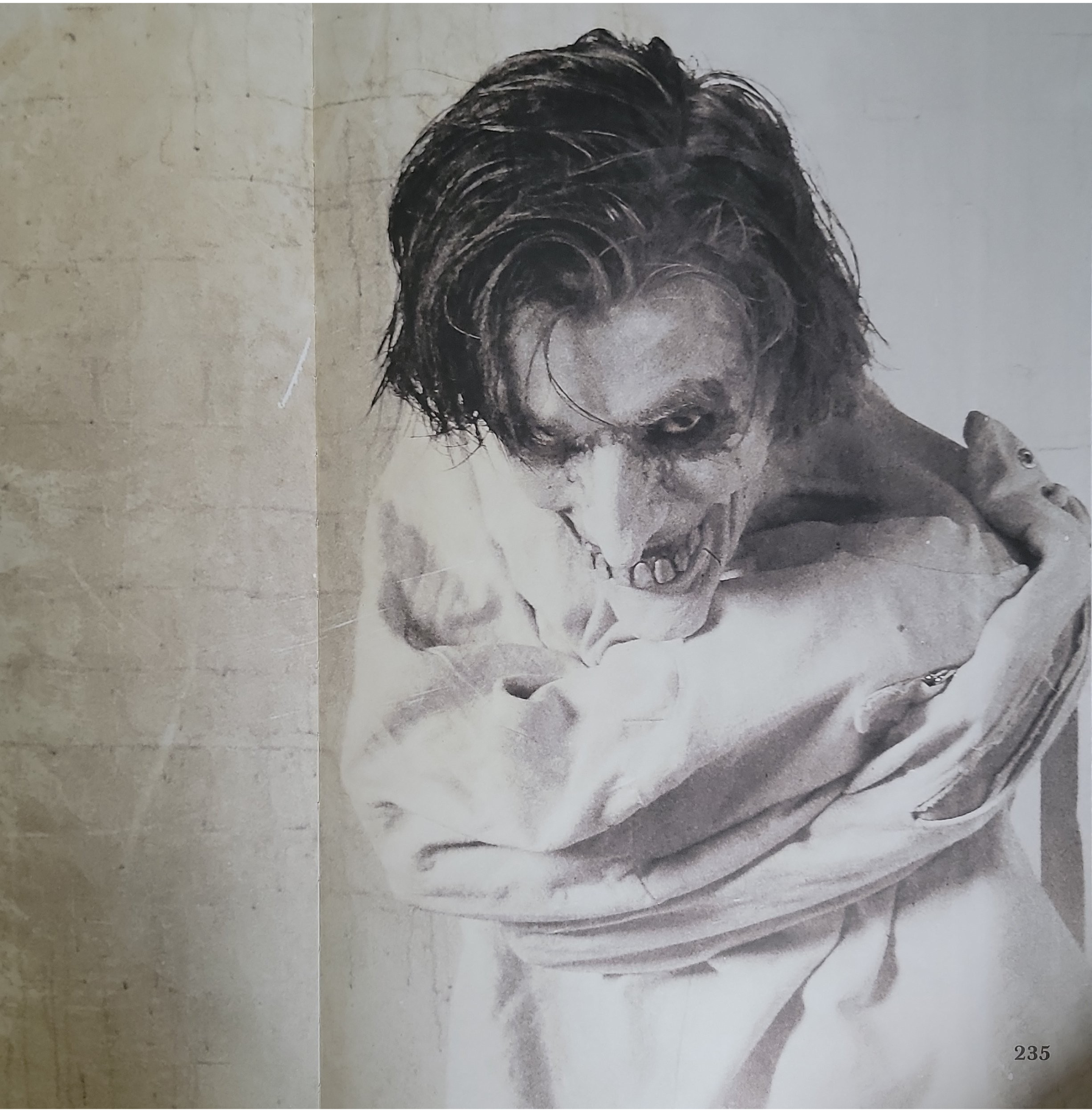
After years of abuse at the hands of the Joker, Harley finally found independence with the help of Pamela Isley. She broke away from the Joker, as he had grown more cruel and controlling in his ways.

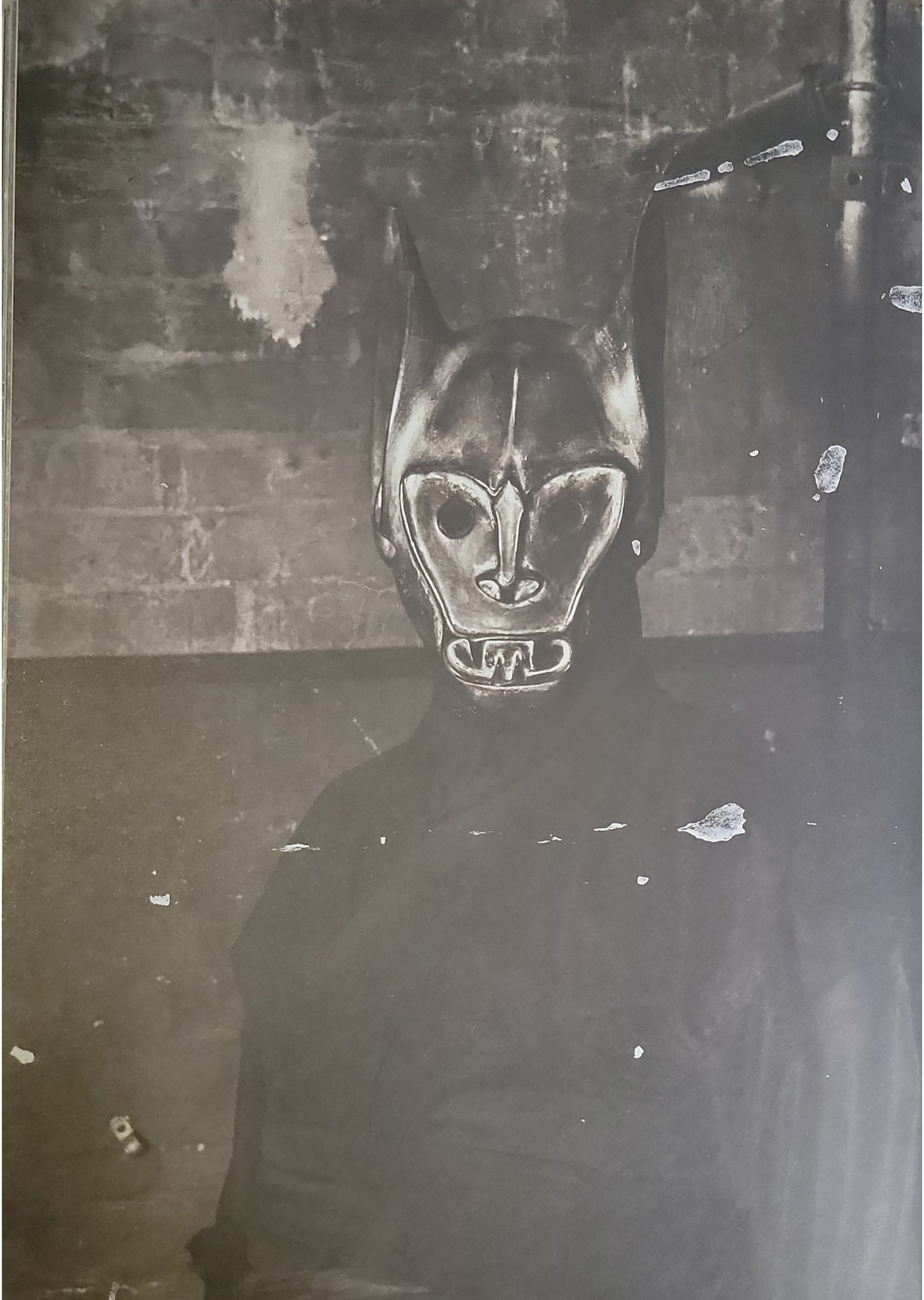
In the following years, there would be a recurring theme of her making deals for reduced sentences, Harley turned state witness against the Joker and, in the process, became the darling of the press. She became an even bigger celebrity and was known around the world.

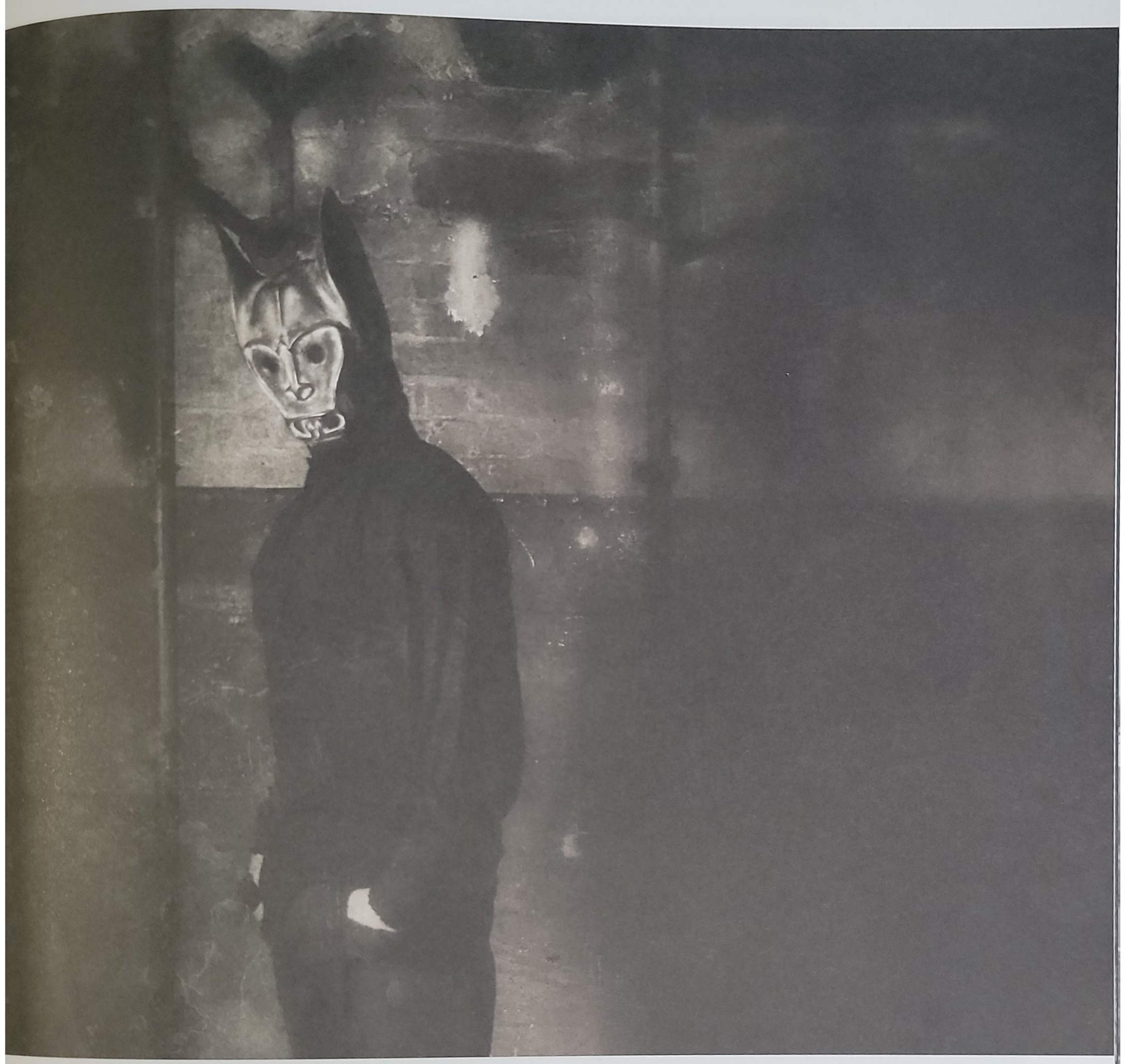
At the height of the Harley Quinn craze it's believed she was the inspiration for film actors like Helen Kane, Clara Bow and the cartoon character Betty Boop, who all copied her mannerisms and speech. This newfound fame didn't stop Harley from continuing her life of crime though, she even formed her own outfit that was known as "The Red Triangle Gang" . This time she was the star, not the support act.

The Joker

As the years passed by, the little sanity that once remained in The Joker had long since gone. His crimes became even more sadistic and violent. He was kept under constant guard in the darkest cell that Arkham could provide. He had become a legend, with admirers and followers around the world fascinated by him. In the decades that would follow there would be countless articles, books and even films made on the "Clown Prince of Crime". He and Batman would be linked until long after they both were gone.







Mask Of The Bat

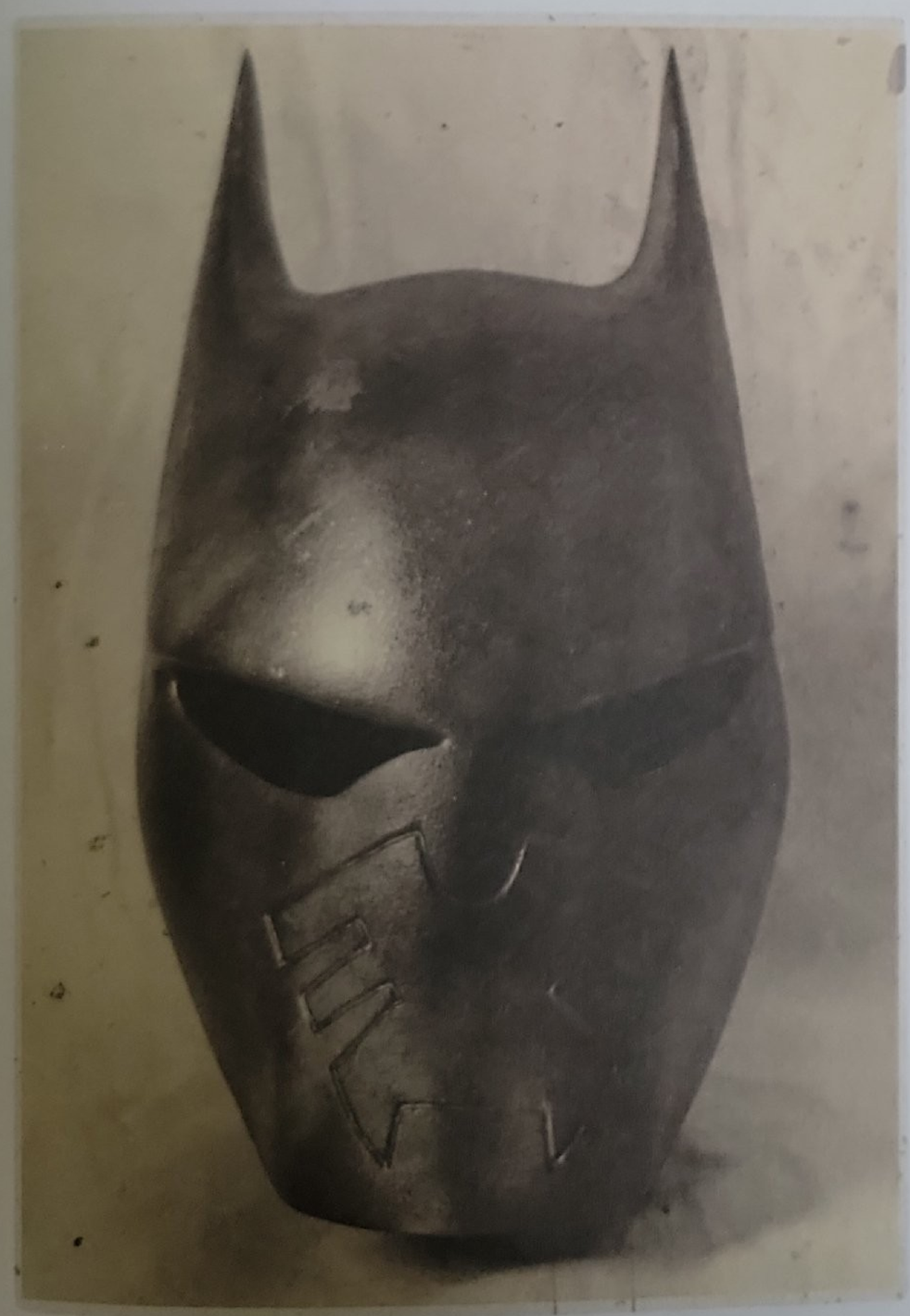
One of the last activities Batman ever did was to stop the monster that he had created with Jean-Paul Valley. After an extended period of time traveling the world to heal his broken back, Bruce returned to Gotham, only to encounter the horrific outcome of leaving his city in the hands of Azrael's version of justice. Harvey Dent's murder was a wake-up call for Bruce. The title of Batman had been tainted and dishonored.

Bruce would don a "bat spirit" mask of Tengu that had been gifted to him by a shaman in his early years, before he ever became Batman. He hoped it would give him the strength that he would need to put an end to Azrael and reclaim the mask of the Bat.

Renee Montoya

Renee Montoya was the first woman detective in Gotham's police force and the first Latina to hold rank – all while also keeping the fact that she was a lesbian a secret. She had been dealing with challenges her whole life, so when certain people tried everything they could to push her out of the GCPD, they underestimated her strength and resilience.

Renee's partner was Harvey Bullock. At first, the brash and casually racist personality of Bullock seemed like it would be impossible for any relationship to emerge, let alone a working one. But over the years she helped him change for the better, and they both learned to be greater police from their partnership. When it came time to research and collate all the files on Gotham during 1919 to 1939, there was no better candidate than Renee Montoya.



Epilogue

Like all things, the era of Batman and the madness he inspired came to an end. As World War II loomed, the idea of grown men and women in costumes vying for the fate of Gotham seemed trivial in comparison to the oncoming change, and horrific global awakening, this new conflict would bring.

The legacy of this time wouldn't soon be forgotten, however. Many films, books and even Broadway shows would all take inspiration from this 20-year battle for Gotham.

The majority of the players faded away into obscurity. A few of their fates are documented, however.

Alfred never recovered from the injuries he received during the fall of the Batcave, he died in 1939 in Gotham Hospital. Some say his death was the final straw that led to Bruce retiring as Batman.

During World War II, Dick Grayson would go on to fight with a covert-ops team, called "Task Force X", under direct orders of Harry S. Truman, through the Office Of Strategic Services (O.S.S). He would be second in command under the war hero Rick Flagg.
Dick, along with other members of Task Force X, would die during a mission in France, 1943.

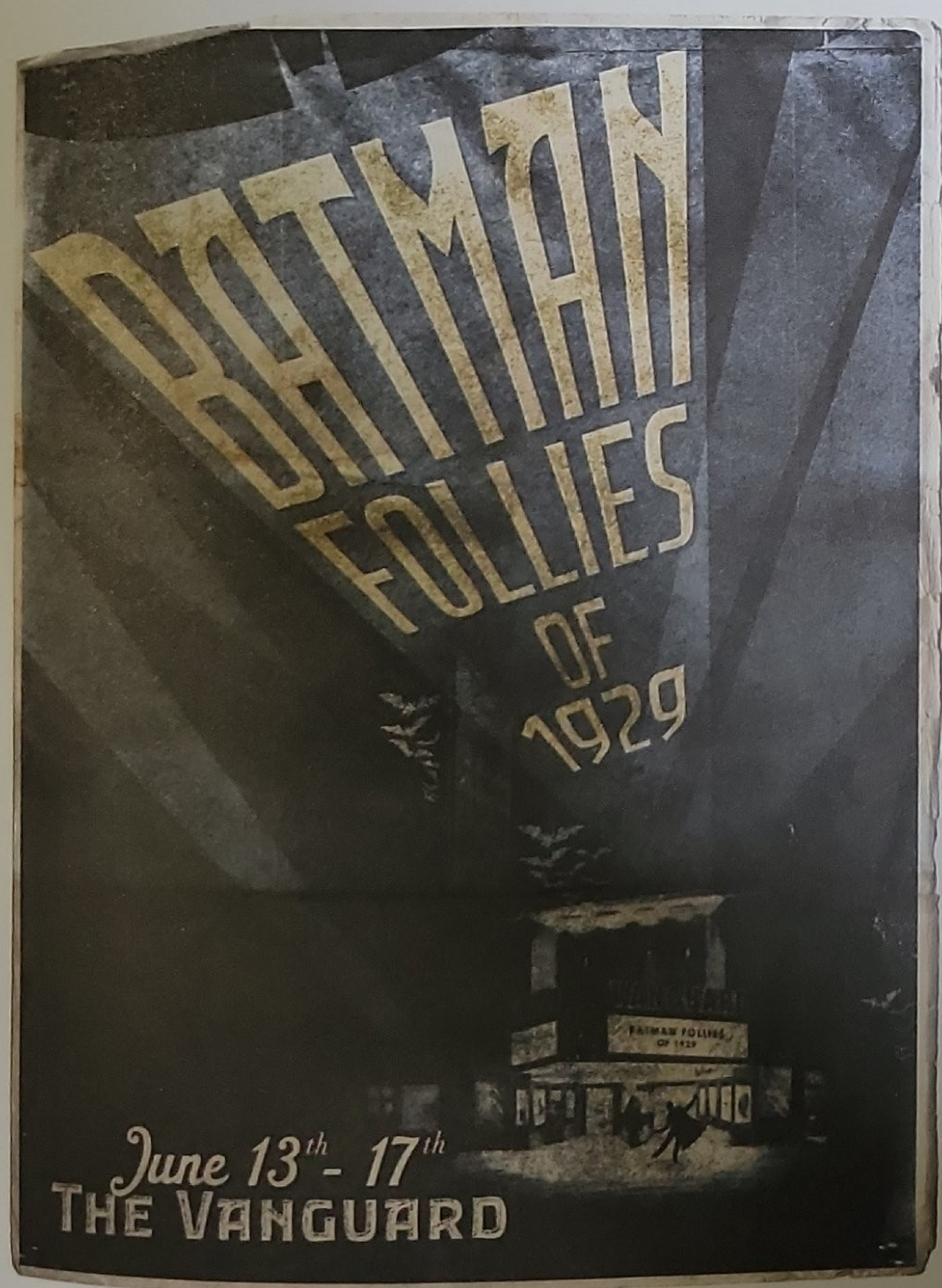
Tim Drake became an FBI agent, and was responsible for pioneering new profiling and forensic investigation techniques that would revolutionize law enforcement for the modern era.

In the mid 1940's during a fire at Arkham Asylum, many of their most dangerous inmates escaped. For months people lived in fear, the rest of the country would nickname Gotham "Arkham City". But a mysterious savior would appear and disappear just as quickly. He donned Bat-inspired body armor, and managed to track down the escapees, returning them into the state's care. The media would call this new hero, the "Arkham Knight".

Luke Fox would return to Europe and join a rogue squadron of allied pilots called the "Black Hawks". He would fight in the skies throughout the campaign against the Germans. After the events of the Bamber Bridge incident, he became disillusioned with fighting for his country and retired in the south of France. By all reports, the remainder of his life was peaceful.

The Joker escaped from Arkham Asylum again and was never recaptured. There are no known sightings following his final disappearance. It seems that once Batman stopped being Gotham's protector, he simply disappeared. He did leave a message, however, which was written in blood on the wall of his cell: "All the world's a stage, all men and women merely players."

TASK FORCE X - a.k.a "The Suicide Squad"
L-R: Atom Smasher, Deathstroke, Rick Flagg, Nightwing, Captain Boomerang, Deadshot, Slipknot, Harley Quinn

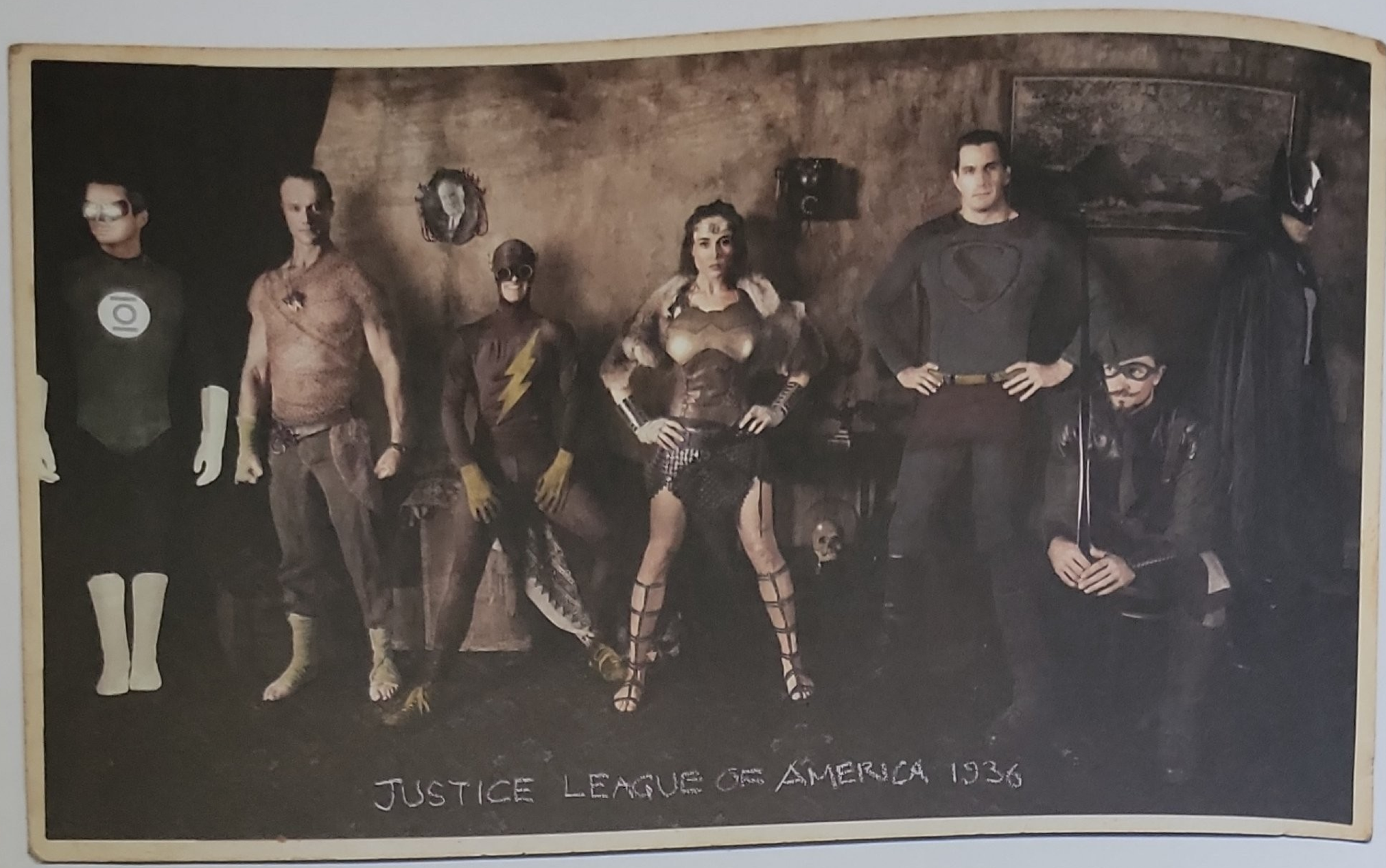


Selina Kyle (Cat Woman) would be one of the main players to get out mostly unscathed. She went on to create and run a much-needed women's shelter in Gotham City, partially funded by the Wayne Foundation.

Barbara Gordon would continue to offer her skills as a code breaker during WW2. She would go on to attend law school and eventually became Gotham's first female District Attorney in 1948. Her family's name helped build trust amongst Gotham's lawmakers and citizens, many still remembering her father's sacrifice.

With the death of their leader and the rise of the fascist movement in Europe having turned the world on its head, the League of Assassins' objectives pivoted away from Gotham.

Damian would eventually leave Gotham, where he'd fulfill his grandfather's wish of taking over the League of Assassins as the new Demon's Head. However, Damian was still his father's son. Changing its name to "The League of Shadows", Damian became a very powerful warlord in the ruins of WW2. He combined his paternal and maternal teachings to create a new persona, "The Heretic", who became the protector of not just a single city, but the entire world. He vowed that he would never allow another "war to end all wars" to take place.

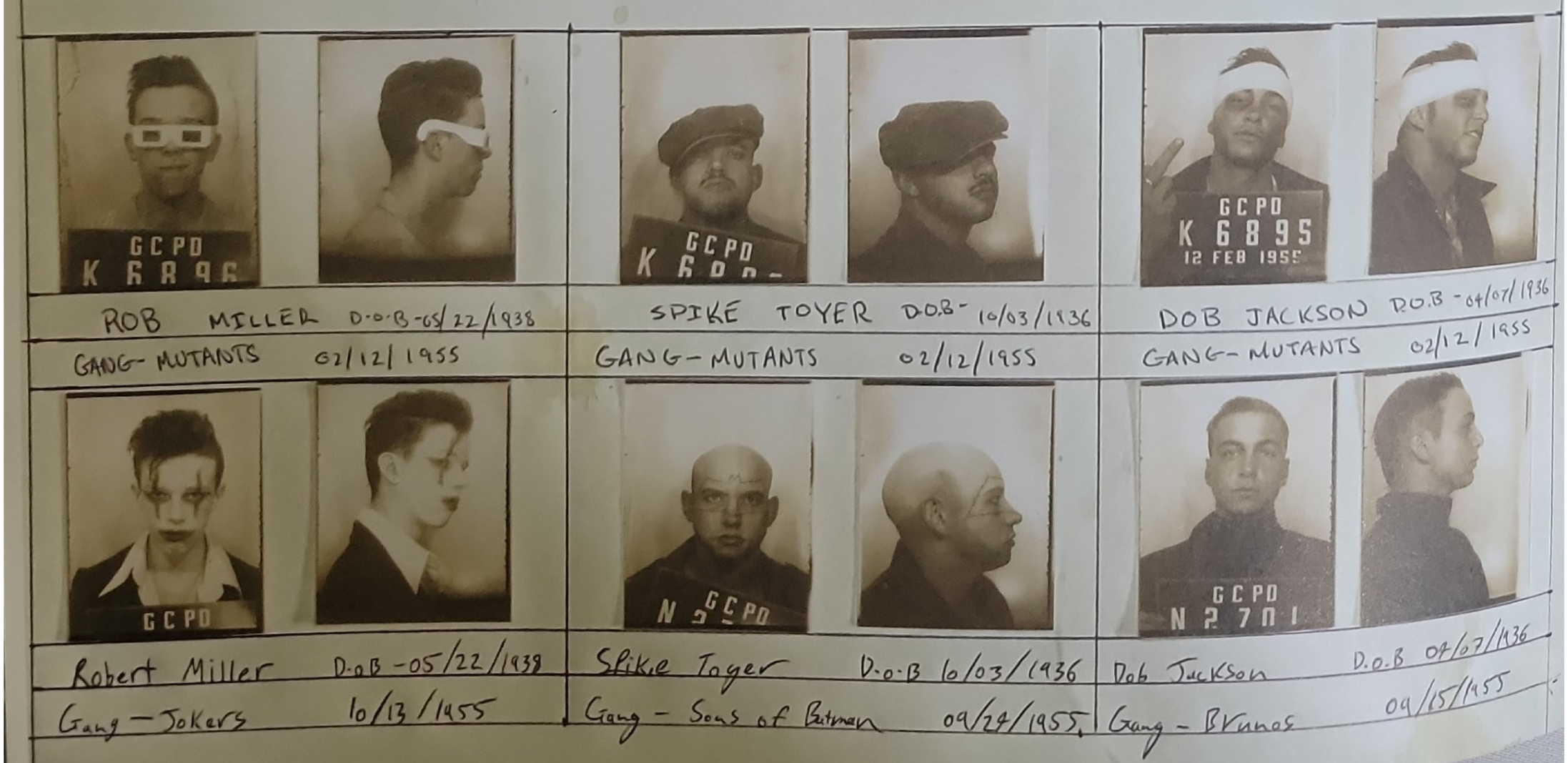


Bruce Wayne had sacrificed a great deal for Batman; his body had been broken too many times for it to heal, forcing him to give up his crime-fighting initiatives. During the Second World War Bruce would use his influence and status to help the O.S.S with their intelligence effort, along with Allen Dulles, he was credited in recruiting Fritz Kolbe in becoming a spy for the Allies.

After the war he would focus his energy on starting charities under the Wayne name, and continued to be a hero in any way that he could. Bruce would only don the cape and cowl one last time in 1955, to bring an end to a violent city-wide youth gang called "The Mutants".

Eventually, even the Batman became a victim of age; Bruce lost his mind, spending his last days tormented by the monsters from his past. Years after his death, the secret of Batman's true identity and exploits would be revealed to the world and his legacy would continue to be an inspiration to the generations that would follow.

Whether Batman really helped fight crime or was the reason it escalated to absurd levels will be forever debated in studies, in both medical and law enforcement fields, for years to come. The evidence presented in this book is not intended to pass judgment, but to represent the truth about what transpired as accurately as possible during Gotham, 1919 to 1939.



The Dark Knight Returns
1955

Credits

Models

Anthony Howes (The Joker, Mr. Freeze, Man Bat, Deadshot body double)
Annabel Wruth (Whipping Cat Woman)
Dion Panage (Bruce Wayne / Batman)
Darrelle Hoffman (Alfred Pennyworth)
Frank Aldrige (Lucius Fox)
Geeve O'shea (Leslie Tompkins)
Mark Greenwood (Harvey Dent / Two-Face)
Keith Gordon (The Penguin)
Steve Barret (James Gordon)
Anne Duffy (Selina Kyle / Cat Woman)
Steve Howarth (Clock King)
Tony Dreise (Carmine Falcone)
Sandro De Rango (Egghead)
Graham Murray (Wildcat)
Adam Mada (Black Mask)
Tony Woollams (Rupert Thorn)
Nicholas Bakopoulos-Cooke (Dick Grayson / Nightwing)
Sebastian Moon (Harold Allnut)
Danielle Hocking (Vicki Vale)
Keith Thomas (Ventriloquist)
Emma Jensen (Phantasm)
James Elmes (Scarecrow)
Ken Cameron (Hugo Strange)
Kael Murray (Batgirl / Oracle)
Ela Ray (Julie Maddison / Wonder Woman)
Lisa Yang (Lady Shiva)
Tony Vacher (Deadshot)
Jaimie Leonarder (Riddler)
Charisma Cubillo (Talia al Ghul)
Paul Chong (O-Sensei)
Wassim Bazzi (Maxie Zeus)
Nick Neild (Mad Hatter)
Leslie Rice (Tweedle Dee & Tweedle Dum)
Obi Talaat Moussa (Jason Todd / Redhood)
Feather Vanheumen (Harley Quinn)
Tristan Behenna (Harvey Bullock)
John Ferguson (Killer Croc)
Neven Connolly (Condiment King / Batman Beyond)
Jack Pottinger (Azrael / Knightfall)
Terry Reilly (Nomaz)
Dominic McDonald (Jason Bard)
Frankie Valentine (Poison Ivy)
Warren Pritchard (Clayface)
Shuan McGrath (Bat-mite)
James Barry (Solomon Grundy / Green Arrow)
Jesse Rowles (Batman & Deathstroke body double / Talon)
Valeriya Braams (Silver St Cloud)
Karl Webster (King Snake)
Chris McCormick (Cain)
Bram Eastman (Black Spider / Mutant / Bruno gang member)
Jacqueline Ng (Lynx)
Tita Smith (Black Bat)
Tatyanna Pogonza-Dumas (Orpheus)
Tobias Ayers (Tim Drake)
Viviana Toro (The Huntress)
Shalane Connors (Batwoman)
Kaijin Solo (Malcolm Merlyn)
Claudia Gutierrez (Onyx)
Will Willitts (Deathstroke)
Mirwais Waseeq (Silver Monkey)
Kevin Hastings (Hook)
Toks James (Bronze Tiger)
Chris Kellan (Professor Ojo)
Derek Boyer (Ubu)
Stef Chang (Nyssa al Ghul)
Nick Annas (Damian Wayne)
Chris Stollery (Ra's al Ghul)
Murray Shepherd (The Clue Master)
Ellie Rose Giddings (Spoiler)
Samuel Mckeown (Batwing)
Sam Lynch (Bane)
Shawn Spina (Professor Pyg)
Dale Wesely Johnson-Green (The Creeper)
Lee Jankowski (Calendar Man)
Adam Johansen (Hush)
Brody Davidson (Anarky)
Pip Branson (Victor Zsasz)
Simon Crawley (Red Wing / The Flash)
Catherine Davis (Renee Montoya)
Nathan Raphael (Atom Smasher)
Trent Baines (Rick Flagg)
Stuart Rowsell (Captain Boomerang)
Rui Macarico (Slipknot)
Paul Hughes (The Green Lantern)
Kane Draper (Aquaman)
Radek Jonak (Superman)
Thomas Cummings (Mutant / Jokers gang member)
Robert Gawthorne (Mutant / Sons Of Batman gang member)
Anthony Thomas (Batman 1955)
Delta Tabbernal (Carrie Kelley)

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Odd Studios
Davesfx

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Aspasia Leonarder

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Annette Twemlow

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Anton Jurenović
Hero Frock Hire
Palais theatre
Myrtle Street Studios
Erth Physical Theatre
Cassilda Parkinson
Legs on the Wall
Sun Studios
Anton's
Eddy Taylor
Caroline Thorburn
Dean Podmore
Chelsea Carter
John Somerfield
Nick Lunzer
Mistress Tokyo
Tim Claydon
Ross Ogilvie
Bob Basset
Punkture
Aron Dosiak
Kris Cripps
Sheree Matthews
Betty Judd
Gloria Kolya
Laura Bracken
Mark Lace
The Vanguard
Sydney Trains
Eddy Daher
Firas Chaya
Batfeed
Cult Of Batman

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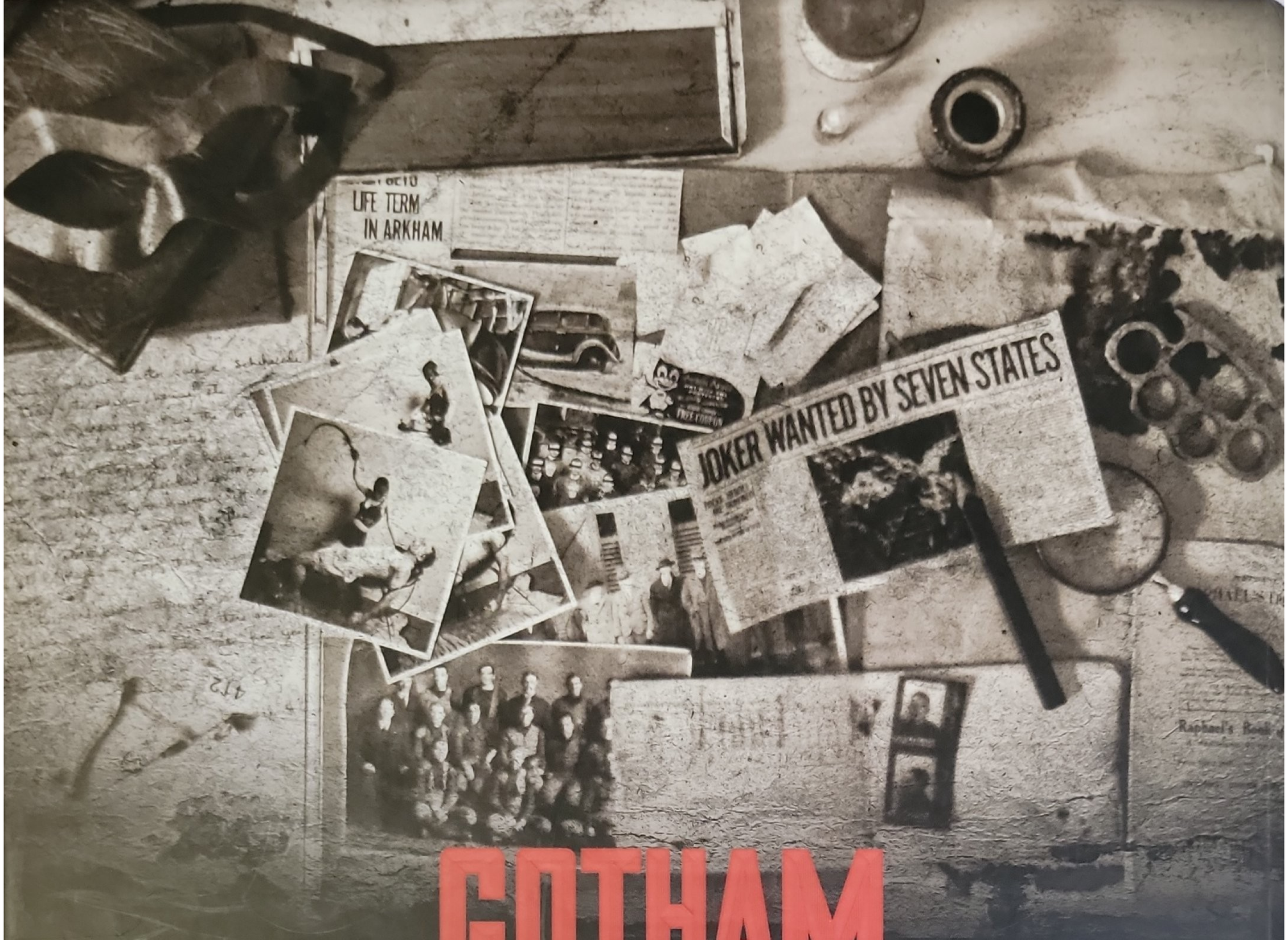

GOTHAM
1919 - 1939

1919 to 1939 was a time of unprecedented changes – this book captures it all for posterity in a series of stunning pictures. From the 'war to end all wars' to the crash of the stock market; from the first nationwide Radio broadcast to splitting the atom; from enforcement of prohibition to the rise of the celebrity gangster. This book collects the years of research following the Dark Knight and the colorful characters that for a short period dominated the headlines. As you leaf through its pages and ponder over its captivating images you will see the world that would create a place like Gotham City and the people who put on masks to protect it.

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